

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 1, 2013

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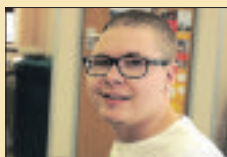
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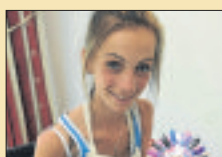
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Pupil nails it

Amy misses out on race but still raises money

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Silver lining

Delight for Faye as GB juniors pipped for gold

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Boss will put home on line to save firm

THE boss of a Cradley Heath company says he is ready to pledge his home as a security to pay a £70,000 VAT debt as he gets ready for his latest legal battle.

Parry & Associates – the engineering arm of Parry People Movers, which makes the rail cars operating between Stourbridge's train stations – is launching a bid to reverse a High Court winding-up order.

And 75-year-old chairman John Parry said that if he is unable to raise the VAT owed through selling two unnamed allied firms, he will take out a bridging loan.

Mr Parry will be using his three-bedroom detached house in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, as a guarantee.

"The company is not insolvent," said Mr Parry.

"And we've now appointed lawyers to seek a reversal of the winding-up petition.

"By the time our application to rescind the winding up order goes to court we will be able to demonstrate that Parry & Associates can meet all its obligations.

"If absolutely necessary, as a last resort, I will obtain a cash bridging loan and put up my own house against it."

Since the order, the contracts of all 12 full and part-time staff of Parry & Associates have had to be terminated.

Five have moved to other jobs, the rest are still with People Movers.

Tory call on parking fees

CAR parking charges across Dudley would be scrapped under plans by the borough's Conservative group – but the move has been described as 'totally unrealistic' by the ruling Labour group.

Councillor Patrick Harley has pledged to stop charging motorists to park at Dudley Council's car parks if the group wins back control of the council.

He claims the move would help town centres and be paid for by a reduction in welfare bills.

Witnesses horrified by thugs' savage attack

TWO thugs carried out a savage beating so severe horrified onlookers thought they were 'witnessing a murder', a court heard.

Daniel Bristow and Mitchell Webb, both aged 20, administered what a judge described as 'a sustained attack' on Jad Bache at a Blackheath taxi company.

The pair had come across their victim by chance on March 25 last year and knocked out one of his

front teeth, inflicted soft tissue injuries to his scalp and caused swelling on his jaw.

Bristow, of Long Lane, Halesowen, and Webb, of Highfield Road, Rowley Regis, each pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the attack had been revenge for an earlier attack by Mr Bache on Bristow.

Judge Michael Dudley said he

had come very close to detaining the pair after watching 'horrendous' CCTV footage of the attack.

He added: "It was a sustained attack, lasting quite a few minutes and it continued despite the fact members of the public were trying to stop it.

"Some of those inside the taxi office thought they were witnessing a potential murder.

"Fortunately for you, it didn't

result in more serious injury. I've had to think long and hard about this and you've just escaped a custodial sentence of two years."

Bristow and Webb were handed two-year sentences, suspended for two years.

Capable

When the pair appeared at court to be sentenced on Friday, Mr Philip Brunt, who defended both of them, said Bristow who had been

employed working with his father since the attack was 'capable of hard work to a high standard'.

He added that Webb's actions had been out of character for him and came from a 'sense of loyalty' to his friend.

Bristow and Webb will have to complete the Resolve programme, which is organised by the probation service, as well as complete 300 hours' unpaid work.

MP told of jobs boost on visit to McDonald's

AN extra 20 jobs will be created at a branch of McDonald's in Halesowen, it has been announced.

They are among 2,500 being created by the fast food giant nationally.

The boost was revealed by franchise holder Afia Sirkhot during a visit by Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

The franchise employs more than 70 workers, including three apprentices.

Mr Morris was given a guided tour of the restaurant in Bromsgrove Road.

He spoke to the apprentices about their career ambitions and learned about the company's food sourcing and staff training.

The MP also tried his hand at serving customers at the counter.

Mrs Sirkhot said: "It was great to meet James – my staff and I thoroughly enjoyed the visit. We have put a lot of time, planning and hard work into the apprenticeship programme, and so for our local MP to visit was nice recognition."

Newly-qualified shift manager, Adam Jeavons said: "It was great to meet my local MP – and to talk to him about my career aspirations."

Mr Morris said: "I strongly believe that companies like McDonald's have a lot to offer in providing jobs and skills for our local community."

Planning hope for old shops

COUNCIL chiefs have agreed to consider using compulsory purchase powers to help move forward a redevelopment project aimed to breathe life into empty shops in Cradley.

Dudley Council is drawing up plans to transform boarded-up shops in Colley Gate, to make the area more attractive. A scheme for six shops and 14 flats has already been granted planning permission, but the developer has been unable to come to an agreement with other owners.

SAFER CROSSING CALL BY CYCLISTS

by Andrew Turton

CYCLISTS and athletes in Halesowen are calling for a new crossing to be installed across a busy dual carriageway outside their club stadium to improve safety.

Campaigners say improved access to Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club would boost participation and help them attract new members to build on the legacy of the Olympics.

Residents and ward councillors have voiced concerns about the dangers of trying to cross the busy A456 Manor Way between Kidderminster, Hagley and Stourbridge and the M5.

Pedestrians often precariously climb crash barriers separating the carriageways to cross in front of traffic.

Concerns

There are also concerns pedestrians cross between cars and lorries as they queue at the Grange Hill island and have called for more signage. The call follows the death of Tipton motorcyclist Nick Foster who died after a collision near the Sandvik plant on June 7.

Club members also voiced concerns about speeding on the road which has been subjected to numerous checks by neighbourhood police in recent weeks.

In total 115 motorists have been given fixed penalty notices by West Midlands Police for breaking the 40mph limit on the stretch nearest the club since January last



Front, Matt Clarke, Janet Hutchinson and David Viner with supporters who are calling for better crossings on Manor Way

year. The club boasts Olympic track cycling star Jess Varnish and former World Champion cyclist and broadcaster Hugh Porter MBE among its membership.

More than 600 people, many of which are aged under 18, are members of the athletics and cycling club, which meets at Manor Abbey Stadium.

Cycle road team boss Dave Viner has collected letters of support from club members and nearby residents among others to

bolster their campaign. The club's preferred option is for a pelican crossing to be installed. And Manor Way Primary School headteacher Dawn Betteridge has also written to Dudley Council in support of the proposed new crossing.

Mr Viner has also held meetings with the ward councillors and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris to discuss the safety issues. He said: "It is felt by many members of the club that it has been 'cut off"

from Halesowen town centre due to the lack of safe access to the stadium grounds.

"We want to encourage more members to take up the sports and this is about the legacy of the Olympics."

Dudley's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said he was planning to meet the club officials within two weeks to discuss the issue, adding: "We are open to looking into this situation but it is at the early stages at the moment."

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Kerb crawler's tomato shop story

A KERB crawler from Dudley caught by police with a prostitute in his car told them he had offered her a life because she was directing him to a shop to buy tomatoes.

Prison security guard Muhammad Ikhlaiq picked up the known sex worker on Wednesbury Road, in Walsall's red light district on May 7, Walsall magistrates heard last week.

The 39-year-old, of New Road, who is married with four children,

was driving along Wallows Lane with the woman in the passenger seat of his black Nissan Micra when officers stopped and arrested him.

He told them he had needed to buy tomatoes to bring to a colleague at work the next day.

He claimed he asked the woman for directions to the nearest grocers and she offered to show him the way.

Two plain-clothed police officers followed the pair in an unmarked

car. They had been working on Operation Scarlet & Minus, a crackdown on kerb crawlers in the town's worst-affected areas.

The officers stopped Ikhlaiq at traffic lights and arrested him, before taking him to Bloxwich Police Station for questioning.

He denied an offence of soliciting for the purpose of obtaining sexual services in a public place. "I asked her because I thought she looked

local and I was in a hurry. She said she was going that way," he said.

Magistrates said his story was 'not credible' and fined him £400 with £625 costs and a £40 victim surcharge. After the hearing, Pc Stacey Paterson said: "I've heard some excuses before but in the 10 years that I have been a police officer I have never heard a kerb crawler covering up his crimes by claiming to be buying tomatoes."

Driver who rammed new police car jailed

POLICE have welcomed the jailing of a disqualified driver who rammed a brand new patrol car.

Moments before the smash in-car cameras recorded a discussion between motorway officers saying they hoped banned driver Chad Harrison would not shunt their BMW X5, delivered just days earlier as they attempted to pull him over.

But when Harrison stopped in a lane near the A449 in Stourbridge he did exactly that, reversing his flat-bed truck into the 4x4 twice and causing £5,000 worth of damage before speeding away and leading officers on a 20-mile pursuit.

Police said Harrison, who was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 16, has been jailed for 15 months and banned from the road for seven years.

Patrol units were in the Stourbridge area on the evening of April 18 searching for a reported stolen vehicle when they spotted Harrison. But the truck Harrison was driving was not stolen.

Pcs Dal Nijjar and Gareth Phillips were both injured when Harrison rammed the car, but they then pursued him until he crashed into the gates of Hunts Mill Nature Reserve off Coopers Bank Road, in Dudley.

Appalling

The West Midlands Police helicopter monitored Harrison's movements as he fled on foot into woodland and led colleagues to the spot he where he was lying low in bushes.

Harrison, aged 27, of Dudley Road, Kingswinford, admitted dangerous driving and driving while disqualified.

Acting Sgt Robert Leaver, from the Central Motorways Police Group, said: "The public need protecting from people who drive in this manner and put other road users in danger; he's rightly been jailed and should be tempted to take to the roads any stage over the next seven years he's likely to find himself back behind bars."

He added: "Harrison has an appalling record of driving going back many years; on this occasion his reckless driving in a large commercial vehicle caused near carnage and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage."

"He deliberately drove at a patrol car, injuring the officers, and then led police on a long pursuit during which he strayed onto the wrong side of carriageways and struck at least eight other vehicles."

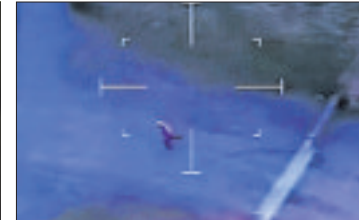
"The truck was in a poor condition and several of the cars were damaged after being struck by one of the truck's stabiliser booms."



The new police patrol car with 400 miles on the clock after pick-up driver Chad Harrison rammed it



The pick-up is spotted by trailing police officers



The helicopter has Harrison in its sights

Students given top marks for drama

STUDENTS from two special schools have been given top marks and extra praise for their drama work at Halesowen College.

The groups, from Halesbury School, Halesowen, and Westminster School, West Bromwich, attended the college weekly for drama sessions. Their work has now been praised by an external

assessor, who took examples of their work to highlight 'excellent special needs education.'

The students recently performed The Circus, when each one took a role, including working back stage and designing the programme. There were also presentations for the hardest working and most improved student at the end of the show and the schools'

catering group at the college provided refreshments and cakes.

Elizabeth Bridgland, tutor and curriculum team manager for dance, drama and music, said: "All the students have excelled this year and their performance was fantastic."

"The external moderator was so impressed by the creativity of the course."

Back-pain worker killed by overdose

A FACTORY worker who suffered chronic back pain killed himself by taking an overdose of the medication for the condition.

David Silvester, aged 44, died at his home, in Keyes Drive, Kingswinford, on February 26. Smethwick Coroners Court heard.

A post mortem revealed a very high dose of pain relief tramadol in his system - 29 milligrammes per litre of blood.

Pathologist Swapna Ghosh told the inquest the level should have been less than one per cent and any level more than six milligrammes per litre of blood was fatal.

Mr Silvester's wife Wendy, from who he was separated, said she had spoken to him the night before and he had been 'all over the place'.

The inquest also was told Mr Silvester had a history of chronic depression.

His benefits were due to be withdrawn by the Department of Work and Pensions but he was appealing against the decision after getting a sick note from his doctor.

Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain recorded a verdict that Mr Silvester had killed himself.

Staff donate to food bank

KIND-HEARTED Dudley Council staff have donated food and goods weighing almost 13 stone to the Black Country Food Bank.

Dropping off points have been set up for staff to give food and other items to the charity, while provides help to needy families.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I'm delighted that council staff have come forward to support this very worthwhile charity."

Last year the bank fed 3,735 people in the borough but it is estimated this could rise to 6,200 this year.

Woman puts out blaze in kitchen

QUICK action by a Halesowen woman managed to put out a fire in her kitchen.

Fire crews were called to Foxlea Road at around 9.50pm last Wednesday but found the home owner had used a damp tea towel to extinguish the blaze on her stove. They led her and her dog out of the house.

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Parks get Green Flag of success

SIX parks and nature reserves in Dudley have proved a cut above the rest after being awarded a coveted Green Flag.

Huntingtree Park and The Leasowes in Halesowen, Netherton Park, Silver Jubilee Park, Cosley, Wollescote Park, Stourbridge, and Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, Dudley have all been given the national title.

The award recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country, and is awarded to those with high standards, that are well maintained and which have good facilities.

Councillor Tracy Wood, the council's environment and culture lead, said: "Dudley is a beautiful, green borough and we're delighted that our green spaces are being recognised with this prestigious status."

"This accolade is with no small thanks to our local community members, volunteers, residents and friends groups who have worked hard to show how much they truly love our community."

"The council will be seeking green flag status for other parks and nature reserves throughout the borough in the future."

Other winners included Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley and Wom Brook Walk, Wombourne.

V-Dub Club is a big pull

MORE than 200 visitors packed out a fun day featuring a host of vintage and modern Volkswagen vehicles ranging from cars to camper vans.

Around 100 motors from across the decades were on display at the event held at the Old Waggon and Horses pub, in Ismere, near Stourbridge, on Sunday.

It was organised by members of the Wyre Forest V-Dub Club, a group of Volkswagen enthusiasts who stage regular events in the area.

Advice on offer

RESIDENTS who need support with alcohol or drug issues can get information on a range of topics, including health advice and home improvements, at events taking place in August. Need to Know sessions will be held at libraries across Dudley borough.

New plan to axe pub after fight to save it



Concern over the future of The Swan

PLANS to knock down a Halesowen pub and replace it with a convenience store have been revived – just a week after residents were claiming victory after opposing the move.

Punch Taverns had withdrawn its previous planning application to knock down The Swan in Long Lane to make way for a single-storey shop earlier this month.

The scheme had been submitted to Dudley Council's planning department. The proposal had sparked concerns over traffic safety and potential impact on neighbours. Residents had raised a 700-signature petition calling for the application to be refused.

But this week, the pub company returned with a new application for the proposal, this time with a supporting letter from Leicestershire-based planning solicitors Marrons.

Issues

In its letter, the company claims any adverse impact from the proposal is outweighed by benefits to business competition, customer choice and employment.

Punch Taverns spokeswoman Sarah Maia said: "The previous application was withdrawn due to technical issues and after

a review, an application was resubmitted with additional supporting documentation."

The pub chain has said the business is no longer viable. But the new planning application will still face strong opposition from the local community, according to Halesowen North ward councillor Jeff Hill.

He said: "Traffic and impact on the neighbours are among my main concerns."

"I will continue to fight the application. The petition has 700 signatures. I see no reason why that petition still does not stand."

Fraud shock of tenants who rent out their council homes

TENANTS in Dudley are flouting laws by renting out their taxpayer-funded council homes to make money, it has been revealed.

Dudley Council chiefs have launched more than 170 housing fraud investigations in 12 months – and have hired a special officer to investigate any scams.

by Heather Large

Fifty tenants were caught breaking the rules with some sub-letting their homes to make money. Other cases included people who remained in a home without the council's permission after the tenant had died.

A total of 173 investigations were carried out, with some still ongoing.

Six people were axed from the council's waiting list for properties after they made a 'fraudulent application' during the 2012/13 financial year, council bosses said.

Tackle

Fifty-one of the cases were closed with no fraud being detected while the remaining investigations are continuing.

The figures were released in the council tenants annual report, which also revealed the authority has recruited a fraud officer to help improve its detection rate in the current 2013/14 financial year.

It is working with other organisations across the region to help tackle housing

fraud and has received Government cash to continue its work.

The report shows there has been a 10 per cent reduction in complaints received about the housing service, which looks after 23,000 homes in the borough.

The number dropped to 278 from 310 in the previous year.

In addition, the report includes details of the council's investment programme, which shows £59.5 million was spent on repairs and improvements during the 12 months.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "We have joined a regional group and are working with other local authorities and social housing providers to ensure a robust approach to prevention and detection of fraud across the housing stock in the West Midlands."

A fraud hotline has been set up on 01384 814242.

A break for tennis

A GROUP of children living in the shadow of one of the world's worst ever nuclear disasters will be enjoying some fresh air in Stourbridge – as they pick up tennis rackets at a sports club. Youngsters from Belarus, who live in an area that received more than 70 per cent of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl disaster in 1985, are being hosted by families in the area for a month and have been invited to enjoy some coaching at Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club on August 10. The party is being brought to the UK by the Chernobyl Children Lifeline charity.



All smiles at the reopening of the store... manager Martin Overton, centre, celebrates with colleagues



Roy Weston is joined by manager Martin Overton, left, Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch and community life champion Steph Walker, right

Roy returns to see reopening of store

A BRIERLEY Hill supermarket has relaunched after a makeover costing more than £1 million that has created nine extra jobs.

And it was a case of deja vu as Roy Weston stepped through the doors of the remodelled Asda store – because he was also the first customer there 35 years ago.

The extra jobs were created thanks to the launch of a new-look George 21 fashion department at the supermarket. And the store has now reopened with a new 'back to school' range and a 'click and collect' canopy for online shoppers.

Roy, aged 75, of Moor Street, Brierley Hill, was the first shopper to step through the doors when the store originally opened in 1978.

Modern

And he was back as the first customer for the new look Asda, as a VIP alongside the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, store manager Martin Overton, community life champion Steph Walker and long-standing store staff.

Roy, retired groundsman at the old Marsh & Baxter sausage factory, Brierley Hill, said: "The shop has changed a lot over the years – particularly the tills, which are very modern now. My wife, Jean, and I have used the store that long we feel like part of the family."

The improvements were carried out over eight weeks.

NEWS in brief

Doctor graduates as captain in TA

DUDLEY doctor Dinesh Pall has graduated as a captain in the Territorial Army from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

He was one of 37 people to graduate after completing the Professionally-Qualified Officer course.

"To graduate as an officer in the TA makes me extremely proud," Captain Pall, aged 38, said. "I can't wait to join the Royal Army Medical Corps as a GP. I'm looking forward to the new opportunities open to me."

Rugby players in touch for charity

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Club will be giving the proceeds of its annual touch rugby tournament and charity fun day to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Organisers hope to raise at least £2,500, beating last year's total of £1,400 for Macmillan nurses.

The six-a-side tournament will be played for the Mel Williams Cup, in memory of the club's former president. It will start at 11am on Saturday at the Stourton Park site in Bridgnorth Road. A fire engine will also be there and three vintage trucks.

Police pay for Scout T-shirts

A GROUP of Scouts has been given new T-shirts thanks to a police donation. The 35 youngsters of the 1st Quarry Bank and Lye Scout group were given £647 by Stourbridge police officers.

It was raised through the Police Property Act – a fund raised by selling property seized as part of police investigations.

House proposal set for go-ahead

PLANS to build a three-bedroom house are expected to be approved after councillors deferred making a final decision so they could visit the site.

The proposal is for the home in Granville Drive, Kingswinford, along with a fence and parking space. Some neighbours were worried it would be an overdevelopment but planning officers said it was acceptable.

Car hits barriers

A DRIVER crashed his car into barriers surrounding roadworks at the junction of Forge Lane and Dudley Road, Halesowen, last Wednesday evening, narrowly avoiding a large hole. He was unhurt.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



FROM the Met Office monthly forecast for August: "It will be warm in any prolonged sunnier spells." No kidding?

□□□□□□□□

FOR the technical, little Prince George is the heir apparent to the heir apparent to the heir apparent. Apparently.

□□□□□□□□

I SUPPOSE it's too late to give the royal spog a fourth forename, just to mark the fact that he was born on the hottest day of the year? King Scorchio the First sounds terrific.

□□□□□□□□

INCIDENTALLY, has there ever been a worse time to be Australian? Rubbish in the Olympics, rubbish in the rugby, rubbish in the Test and then the Yanks come along and bomb your Great Barrier Reef.

□□□□□□□□

THE BBC Sport website asks: "Ashes 2013: Are Australia set for years as underdogs?" Shouldn't that be underdogs?

□□□□□□□□

A SEX offender is on the run in Germany having chipped a hole in his cell in Hamburg using a spoon. Not a paedophile, then?

□□□□□□□□

THE headline which appeared to announce "Cameron to unveil online porn club" turns out to be "Cameron to unveil online porn curb." Must get some new reading glasses.

□□□□□□□□

J K ROWLING has a bit of a downer on the tabloid Press. She appeared at the Leveson Inquiry where a succession of lawyers (noble, trustworthy pillars of society) denounced a succession of journalists (slimy, heartless guttersnipes). So guess which profession leaked Rowling's most precious secret - that she was "Robert Galbraith," author of the mystery, The Cuckoo's Calling? That's right, it was a lawyer. A lawyer in the firm that represents her. Such a noble profession, eh?

□□□□□□□□

YES, it is an odd word. A reader asks why the NHS is controlled by trusts when, in some cases, the last thing you'd ever do is trust them.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Brothers locked up for attack on innocent boy

Time for children to play in parks

PARKS in Dudley are hosting a range of free activities for youngsters during the school holidays.

They are aimed at children aged eight to 13 and sessions will run until August 30 at Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, Netherton Park, Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, and Quarry Bank Park.

Activities, which run at various times from Mondays to Fridays, will include parachute games, multi-skills activities and scavenger hunts. Activities will be held at Quarry Bank Park every Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.

There will be Wacky Wednesdays, which includes face painting, sumo fun, an inflatable football pitch, preschool activities, treasure hunts, cookery taster sessions fun and fitness activities and environmental sessions.

They run from 1 to 4pm at Netherton Park on Aug-ust 14, Mary Stevens Park on August 21 and Huntingtree Park on August 28.

There will also be special evening sessions from 5pm to 7pm at Mary Stevens Park on August 20, Huntingtree Park on August 13 and 27, Silver Jubilee Park on today and August 22 and Netherton Park on August 15 and 29.

Pedal power boosts charity

FUNDRAISERS have been using pedal power to raise money for a Dudley cancer charity.

Staff from the Merry Hill branch of Coventry Building Society covered 100km on an exercise bike for the fundraiser.

Eight workers took part and they completed the distance in three hours and 41 minutes using a bike donated by David Lloyd Leisure. They have so far raised £350 for White House Cancer Support, based in Ednam Road, Dudley.

Chris Barron, manager of White House, said: "I think they have been fantastic to raise the money for us by undertaking this challenge."

White House is appealing for volunteer therapists to join its other therapist to two give people with cancer, and their carers, complementary therapy. Patients and their carers can receive up to 12 free sessions of therapy.

Any therapist able to volunteer should call Helen Lees, group and records officer for White House, on 01384 231232.



On the bike is Jon Tomlinson, an advisor from Coventry Building Society, with manager Dan Harris, Mandy Acamovic, Bev Massey and Chris Barron, of White House

TWO brothers who launched an attack on a 16-year-old boy in the mistaken belief that he had thrown stones at their family home have each been jailed for five years.

Gareth and Aaron Attwood struck after the innocent victim was spotted in the same street the day after the vandalism, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The two men and their 46-year-old father Andrew gave chase in two cars trying to cut off his escape and three other people he had apparently been walking with.

He was cornered in the Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Pensnett, and received a beating that left him with a double fracture of the jaw and a broken finger. He lost a tooth and was bruised.

Gareth, aged 21, who lives with his father in nearby Fens Crescent, and 23-year-old Aaron, of Westwood Street, Brierley Hill, were convicted of wounding at an earlier trial and had been remanded in custody for sentencing. Their father was acquitted of wounding, but convicted of assaulting a 19-year-old youth.

Trouble flared on July 15 last year, the day after stones had been thrown at the house, the court was told. Four youths were seen walking in Fens Crescent. They ran away after being



Gareth, left, and Aaron Attwood sent to prison

confronted by members of the family, who chased and cornered the 16-year-old and the 19-year-old. The other two youths escaped.

Mr Christopher O'Driscoll, defending, said: "The 16-year-old was hanging around with the wrong people on this occasion and paid a very high price for that. Two of the other people who were with him were intending to cause more trouble for members of this family."

The brothers were each jailed for five years for wounding and their father six months for assault.

Judge Michael Dudley told them: "The youngest victim was the innocent one in the group and was left in a terrible state when the two brothers had finished with him."



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Date set for Lenny to get his Freedom

LENNY Henry will be presented with the Freedom of Dudley in October.

The comedian and actor said he felt 'deeply humbled and honoured' by the award. Dudley Council approved plans to make the star a borough freeman in February.

He will return on October 9 to receive the Freedom of the Borough scroll at a ceremony at Dudley Town Hall.

The initial decision to award him the honour was met with controversy after opposition councillors claimed the comedian had not contributed enough to the borough. In the past, the freedom has only been awarded to long-serving councillors and the military.

But council leader David Sparks said the honour was well-deserved.

Lenny, one of the borough's most famous faces, will receive it in recognition of his services to entertainment and also his contribution to global fundraising through Comic Relief after councillors agreed to change the rules.

Lenny, aged 54, who grew up in Douglas Road, near Buffery Park, Dudley, said: "I know in my heart of hearts that if my parents were alive they would be a bit puzzled but also incredibly proud of this achievement."

"Thank you very much indeed."

Colleges and school share £1.6m special needs grant

TWO colleges and a school in Dudley borough will share a windfall of more than £1.6 million to create 230 extra places to teach young people with special needs.

Dudley Council has beaten off fierce competition from other areas to win the Government cash to build facilities aimed at 16 to 19-year-olds who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

by Louise Jew

Pens Meadow School, Ridge Hill, Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley, will receive £592,000 to refurbish Shousters House, a derelict former health building next door, to provide state of the art facilities so it can take in another 40 youngsters.

Headteacher Marie Bissell said: "We are thrilled - it's fantastic news and will help us to create sixth form facilities, not just for our own pupils but for young people from across the borough."

Improved

Stourbridge College will get £540,000 to create 150 places for students with complex needs, including the provision of a unit where they can learn how to become more independent, as well as developing business and enterprise skills.

College spokeswoman Mags Winthrop said: "The additional funding to provide new and improved facilities for students with learning difficulties is fan-

tastic news for the borough."

Dudley College gets £516,244 - on top of £745,200 awarded last year - to provide a 'transition centre' for high needs students. Bob Chapman, director of learning, said it would enable completion of the Dudley Aspire specialist teaching centre.

A building on The Broadway campus will provide high needs students with an engineering workshop, computer design facilities and English and maths space.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services and life long learning, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and I have to pay tribute to our officers who have fought long and hard to obtain this funding that will transform the lives of so many of our children and their families, enabling them to lead richer and more rewarding lives."

The beat goes on for academy's birthday



Drumming up academy success Andy Edwards, left, with Dave Mason

FAMOUS musicians will be beating the drum for a Halesowen academy celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Midland Academy of Drumming was launched by Kidderminster musician Andy Edwards following his stint as drummer for rock legend Robert Plant.

And over the years it has gone from strength-to-strength teaching hundreds of aspiring drummers new skills and techniques.

To celebrate its first 10 years, the academy, in James Scott Road, will welcome a host of famous drummers over the coming months.

Proud

Among them will be Paul Weller's long-time drummer Andy White on August 29 and Paul Stewart from The Feeling in October.

Andy White, who has performed with the Who and Oasis, will hold a drum clinic.

Mr Edwards, who runs the academy with Dave Mason, said he was proud to be celebrating the 10th anniversary. "It really has been a huge success," he said.

"We have 150 students at the moment and I have lost count of the numbers who have come through the doors over the years."

For details, go to midlandacademyofdrumming.co.uk

NEWS

in brief

Charity in search of new trustees

A DUDLEY-BASED charity is looking for new trustees and an experienced fundraiser. Enrich Black Country helps bring life, leisure and learning activities to people with physical disabilities.

Trustees chair, Dr Julian Randall, said: "We are looking for enthusiastic local people from all walks of life with a range of skills, good judgement and an empathy with our purpose." Trustee applicants and volunteers can email him at juban@btopenworld.com

Keegan stars at fundraiser dinner

FORMER England manager and international Kevin Keegan will be guest of an honour at a charity dinner in Brierley Hill.

An Evening with Kevin Keegan takes place on October 3 at Copthorne Hotel to raise money for Compton Hospice. Following a three-course meal, guests will have the opportunity to put questions to the former Liverpool and Newcastle striker.

Tickets are around £60. Call Simon Cater on 0845 2255 497 or go to www.compton-hospice.org.uk

Grant for school

A SCHOOL in Dudley will receive £9,748 from the Big Lottery Fund for an outdoor classroom. Sutton School and Specialist College will create an eco and sensory learning zone.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

YOU get a lot of strange invitations in this job, but even so, this one came as a bit of surprise.

Dutch television company Dusk has invited me to its first ever Porn Awards, a special ceremony celebrating the very best in female-orientated porn.

What do you mean, you were going anyway?

The evening, which forms part of the Sensual Summer Event, promises a 'full programme'—you don't say—and the winner will be presented with the Porn 2013 award. Which will no doubt look lovely on the sideboard.

You will forgive me if I don't divulge the names of all the films in the running, but Cabaret Desire by Erika Lust is among the contenders.

There will also be an opportunity to interview British director Anna Arrowsmith, otherwise known as Anna Span, who is not only a talented producer of erotic films which 'usually deal with role playing and female fantasies', but was also a Liberal Democrat candidate for Gravesham, Kent, at the 2010 General Election.

I don't know what she makes of coalition government, but wouldn't you just love to see her in charge of party political broadcasts?

WAS woken up this morning by the window cleaner swearing and screaming before kicking over his bucket. "Sorry mate," he said. "I lost my rag."

SIR Bruce Keogh, who is shortly to publish a report on how the NHS can meet the needs of the 21st century, has said it needs to adopt the 'more for less' mentality of businesses such as PC World or Dixons.

I don't know about you, but I'm not sure that young, spiky-haired GPs in brightly-coloured shirts talking in unintelligible jargon really represents much in the way of progress.

What is evident though is that the expenditure of vast sums of money does not always make for a better service.

Fifteen years ago, I could make an appointment to see my friendly local GP in his small, slightly shabby, little surgery, the next day, no problem.

Now after millions of pounds of 'investment', the poky surgery has made way for an all-singing, all-dancing mini clinic, with electric doors and everything, where it now takes around a week to see whichever doctor happens to have a slot going.

Last time I tried, I was advised it would be quicker to drive across town to the 'walk-in' centre. On arrival, there was a sign warning of a four-hour wait. Oh, and the walk-in centre was due to close in half an hour, anyway. Walk-in centre? I walked straight out.



Doreen Rushton, whose aunt, Lizzie Williams, aged 13, was killed in the blast



The funeral procession for the victims of the factory explosion in 1922

Needless victims of blast honoured

Plaque is unveiled to the memory of the 19 girls killed in factory explosion.
NAOMI DUNNING reports

IT is remembered as the darkest episode in a Black Country town's history, when 19 young girls lost their lives in a devastating explosion.

Now their needless loss of life has been commemorated with a Tipton Civic Society blue plaque near the site where the tragedy happened.

The plaque has been placed at Tipton Toddlers Nursery on the corner of Dudley Port and Groveland Road, a second plaque has also been erected next to it to commemorate the site of Tipton's last cinema.

The Dudley Port factory employed dozens of girls to break up the live cartridges left over from the First World War for scrap.

But on March 6, 1922 at around 11.45am one of the cartridges inexplicably went off, igniting or discharging several thousand others waiting to be dealt with.

Dragged

The explosion ripped through the L K Knowles factory in Groveland Road, where the young women worked, blowing the iron roof from the building and setting it on fire.

A total 24 young girls were working at the time and the explosion killed all but five.

The *Chronicle's* sister paper, *The Express & Star*, covered the disaster and described how the panic-stricken girls tried to escape the inferno. Many had to be dragged from the burning building. Some were severely burned and injured.

The report describes how Dudley's Guest Hospital was stretched to its limit.

In July of that year, following a court case, company manufacturer, John



Relatives of the victims of the explosion with Tipton Civic Society's vice chairman Keith Hodgkins and Adrian Bailey MP, back, view the plaque

Walter Knowles, aged 55, was jailed for five years for manslaughter by Staffordshire Assizes.

A memorial was erected in 1924 at Tipton Cemetery, two years after the explosion and was given a clean-up in 1994 and refurbished in 2010. But there has not been a memorial on the site of the explosion itself.

Doreen Rushton, whose aunt Lizzy Williams died at the age of 13, attended the ceremony to unveil the plaques.

Mrs Rushton, 69, of St Mark's Road, Tipton, said: "She was my father's sister, but he was only three at the time. When we were growing up they never really talked about it."

"We had a photograph of her horse-drawn funeral carriage, and books from chapel which had been dedicated to her, but did not know much else."

"The King had also written to my

family expressing his condolences."

The grandmother-of-three, who attended the event with her sister Mavis Smith and cousins Jean Smith, Rita Kempson and Barbara Hughes, said: "We just felt it was important to go and remember Lizzy."

"It was a terrible, horrendous tragedy, but it was lovely to have the ceremony and remember her together."

Vice chairman of Tipton Civic Society Keith Hodgkins said: "It was an horrific tragedy, and the most tragic episode in Tipton's recent history."

"We felt it was very important to mark the spot where the tragedy happened."

The second blue plaque marks the site of the former The Alhambra cinema, which was built in 1933 and was once Tipton's finest cinema. It closed in 1963.

The names of those who perished at Dudley Port

- Annie Naylor, aged 14, 162 Dudley Port
- Laura Dalloway, aged 14, 36, Upper Chapel Street, Tivdale
- Nellie Kay, aged 15, 20, Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich
- Mabel Weaver, aged 14, 3 Victoria Terrace, Park Estate, Tipton
- Annie Freeth, aged 15, 42 Farley Street, Great Bridge
- Violet May Franklin, aged 15, 17, Cleton Street, Tipton
- Annie Elizabeth Florence Edwards aged 15, 77, A block, Munition Huts, Dudley
- Priscilla Longmore, aged 13, 337, Dudley Port
- Edith Drew, aged 15, 1ct, 1 house, Boat Row, Tipton
- Edith Richards, aged 14, 7 Factory Road, Tipton
- Elsie Fellows, aged 15, 96 Dudley Port
- Lucy Edwards, aged 14
- Edith Jukes, aged 15
- Margaret Burns, aged 15, Sheepwash Lane, West Bromwich
- Elizabeth Williams, aged 13, Old Cross Street, Tipton
- Hannah Hubbard aged 16, 5ct 1 House, Dudley Port
- Elizabeth Aston aged 14
- Lizzie Griffiths, aged 15, of Railway Street, Horseley Heath
- Gladys May Bryant, aged 14, 15 West Street, Dudley Port

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

NEWBORN babies, their mothers and mums-to-be were evacuated when fire broke out in the maternity unit at Walsall's Manor Hospital. Nurses led 10 women, some carrying their babies, to safety as firemen tackled the blaze.

KANDOLA Singh proudly drove his brand new £28,000 Mercedes Benz out of a Wolverhampton showroom – but within three hours it was back in the garage after being involved in a smash. Mr Singh, who worked at the Goodyear tyre factory, was unhurt in the accident.

TOP boppers from Penkridge put their village on the entertainment map with a string of disco victories. Team Genesis scooped the World Disco Stars championship having already scooped the All-England, Western Europe and Great Britain titles.

1993...

FORTY students from Eastern Europe were left stranded after a conman duped them into paying for non-existent work at a farm near Wolverhampton. The Slovakian students turned up to work at Manor Farm in Coven, but were sent away as there were no jobs available.

THE villages of Kings Bromley and Newborough came out on top in Staffordshire's annual best kept village competition. But there was no joy for host village Kinver, who came second to Codsall in the South Staffordshire contest.

PLANNERS in Wolverhampton were considering bringing in special 'anti-bomb' litter bins in the wake of the IRA bombing of Warrington. Council officials looked at bringing in plastic bins after traditional metal ones were removed from all Midlands shopping centres following the blast.

2003...

FORMER Wolves owner-chairman Sir Jack Hayward was honoured after his name was added to a Civic Centre ceremonial board. Sir Jack was named the city's 21st Freeman at a special council meeting.

PEOPLE were evacuated from the Horseley Fields area of Wolverhampton after two Second World War artillery shells were discovered. Army experts attended the site and took the shells away for examination.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Molineux Hotel was saved by a £1.5 million link-up between the city council and regional development agency. The building had stood derelict for almost 25 years before its purchase and planned refurbishment.

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LETTERS

Dossier is growing on Russells Hall

SINCE the coverage I recently gained for criticising the way Russells Hall hospital in Dudley is run I have been contacted by several people with real horror stories about the way they or their family have been treated at this institution.

These people are keen not to have their names mentioned as they fear repercussions during ongoing care and they have asked me to speak on their behalf.

I have decided to extend the offer of help to everyone who may have been

done a disservice at this hospital. Please contact me and I will add your story to the growing dossier I am collecting of awful examples of bad service, all in strictest confidence and you will remain anonymous if that is what you wish.

The stories I have collected so far include examples of pain relief being removed to punish patients who complained. A lady who had such an appalling experience during labour she has been left emotionally and mentally traumatised and a man whose wife was

so frightened of returning to the hospital she refused to be taken there and ended up dying in his arms.

When I have collected more examples of neglect and appalling treatment I will be giving the file to the press at the same time as renewing my calls for the hospital management and board of governors to be replaced.

Contact me via billetheridge.co.uk or 07894 737884

BILL ETHERIDGE
Tipton Street
Sedgley

Why can't we pick plastic?

MOST people are happy with black plastic bags we use now and do not want another bin outside their property because they are unable to take them round the back. We are told the bin system is more cost effective, but we were told previously that households had to be assessed to see if they were suitable to have bins.

Surely this cost would reduce the anticipated savings considerably. If these properties can still use the plastic bags, then why cannot other householders also choose to continue using the bags? I decided some time ago, once elected as a politician, common sense flies out of the window.

M HORNE
Cromwell Drive
Dudley

Pavements are not for bins

HOW I agree with comments made by S Fox regarding another plastic bin soon to be introduced by Dudley Council. My understanding is that in addition to the green wheeled bin, there will be a grey one, together with the black plastic box plus two bags, one green and one blue. I am fortunate to be able to keep the bins at the back of my house. I am also retired so can bring in the bins after emptying. With drivers feeling they have the right to park on footpaths and bins left there until people return from work, it will become even more difficult to use the pavement.

S ELLIS, Halesowen

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

I like Dudley shopping

I'VE always liked Dudley, after all it's our nearest decent shopping centre (still is). I know a lot of retailers have deserted the town for Merry Hill (not everyone's idea of shopping). There's still a lot of butchers, fruit shops, and very good semi-supermarkets. Alas, the 'watering holes' are thin on the ground now.

With regards to the ridiculous fabrication known to those in higher echelons as the 'Dudley Bug' - more like a giant toast rack or a bicycle rack - one wonders, what comments Prince Charles would make?

I shall slip back now over the border to Tipton, but before I go, one more comment Dudley Council, why do you allow a plethora of motorcycles to park on a pedestrian zone near to the public toilets. Wheelchair and pedestrian access is precarious!

MALCOLM SAXON, Central Avenue, Tipton

Buses too hot for travelling

WHY is it in this age of technology and with temperatures in the late 20s, do we have to travel on buses with their heaters on? I regularly travel on the 226 service run by Hansons and Diamond between Wordsley and Merry Hill and on most occasions the bus has its heater on. The drivers say they can do nothing about it. Surely passenger comfort should be paramount. In this day and age we ought to have air conditioned buses, not be cooked as we travel. I can understand why people do not want to use public transport when they can travel in cool air conditioned cars.

CAROLE JORDAN, Balmoral Road, Wordsley

Speedway trouble free

IN response to Mr R A Sargeant's letter regarding speedway at Castle Gate. He lives by one of the busiest roads in the Black Country, he also lives between two of the busiest islands in the Black Country. If a track was to be built near him, he would get minimum noise due to controls in place.

As for calling fans petrol heads, he must get his facts right. Speedway bikes run on an eco fuel called methanol, a wood alcohol, and therefore speedway fans are not petrol heads.

Speedway is a family sport, from babes in arms to pensioners with no trouble. The only people who get dirty are riders or mechanics.

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NEWS

Knife slash pub party reveller is sent to jail

A REVELLER has been jailed for slashing another man's face with a kitchen knife after a fight broke out at a party in a pub in Rowley Regis.

Kieron Bennett chased Anthony Hunt after being thrown out of the Rowley Rag, then punched his nose before cutting the victim's face.

Mr Hunt was knocked unconscious in the attack, in the early hours of February 3.

Bennett pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and having a bladed article in public.

The 21-year-old, of Hanover Road, Rowley Regis, was sentenced to 36 months in prison when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Help

The court heard last week that another man called Jamie Price was also involved in the attack.

Bennett had run back to Price's home, also in Hanover Road, to ask for his help.

Price, 21, picked up the knife and joined Bennett outside, although he did not

by Alex Ross

use the knife on Mr Hunt. Price pleaded guilty to having a bladed article in public and affray.

Mr Ben Williams, defending Price, said his client was not involved in the pub violence, and only joined the scene when Bennett knocked on his door.

He received an 18-month prison sentence at the same court hearing.

Mr Andrew Molloy, prosecuting, said Bennett had been at the party at the Rowley Rag pub when he was thrown out after a dispute about someone stealing a woman's handbag.

Mr David Munro, defending, said: "Bennett finds it difficult trying to explain what it was that happened."

Red card for racism is footballers' lesson



Students Tess Walker and Alex Cameron, both 13, with Luther Blissett and Osei Sankofa

FOOTBALLERS joined students to show racism the red card during a packed day of activities at their school. Pupils at Dudley's Castle High School helped kick start their own Respect campaign by hosting the players for the event.

Former Watford and AC Milan player and England star Luther Blissett visited the school to meet pupils and host workshops. He was joined by fellow footballers including ex-Charlton Athletic player Osei Sankofa.

They aim to dispel some of the myths about racism and talk about their own experiences on the football field.

Year 8 pupils also enjoyed football fitness sessions and the day was rounded off with an assembly led by the players as part of the Show Racism the Red Card roadshow.

Deputy headteacher Ian Moore said: "The students respect the footballers and look up to them so they listen when the players talk about their own experiences."

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NEWS

Fight-for-life student makes miracle recovery

JUST over a year ago, Conor Southall was in a coma after a savage unprovoked attack had left him fighting for life.

Doctors told the Halesowen College student he was lucky to be alive, and urged him to take time out of studying to recover.

But today, the 18-year-old has spoken for the first time since the horrifying attack, having defied the odds and achieved high grades at college.

He has achieved a distinction and two merits in a BTEC IT course.

And now mother Mandy Boyes, from Brookfields Road, Oldbury, has praised his bravery and determination.

She said: "I'm amazed actually. He's shocked everyone - he's my miracle."

"The doctors wanted him to take time out but he has a determination to go to college and carry on there."

"He doesn't want what happened to affect his life."

In September, Dudley Youth Court heard Conor was hit with a single punch during an unprovoked attack on June 15 last year on Olive Lane, Halesowen, when he was aged 16.

Suffering

He suffered a serious head injury when he crashed to the pavement.

Keavagh Redden, from Long Lane, Halesowen, who was also 16 when he appeared at the court, was handed an 18-month custodial sentence after pleading guilty to causing grievous bodily harm. The court lifted reporting restrictions so that he could be named.

Conor is still suffering some effects of his injury, including bad headaches, and is being monitored by neurologists as he continues to make progress.

He is not allowed to go on holiday, fly, or drive a car.

His mum also said he cannot be a



Conor Southall who suffered severe injuries in an unprovoked attack

typical teenager in case he injures himself further. She added: "We are all in awe of him because he's got more determination than anyone I know."

"He wouldn't let this hold him back."

"Seeing him on all the ventilators and everything when he was in hospital was horrible."

"He's not a troublemaker so it was

even more of a shock that someone would do that."

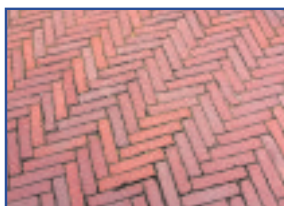
Conor is now planning to complete another course in IT before he goes to university. He said: "I received so much support. I didn't think I would do so well but my lecturers were very determined and helped me achieve high grades."

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MEMORY LANE



The refuge shelter which was closed down by the housing association



Glenthorne House before its current redevelopment into 11 flats



Construction work under way to convert the well-known building



The staircase at the historic Glenthorne House

The changing face of an historic village property

THE future of an historic Cheslyn Hay home is looking more secure, bringing an end to nearly a decade of decline.

South Staffs Housing Association is converting Glenthorne House – one of the homes to the Hawkins' family – into 11 one-bedroom apartments.

One of three purpose-built mansions for the family, Glenthorne was built around 1889 by Thomas Albert Hawkins, son of Joseph Hawkins and owner of the Coppice Colliery. The land on which Glenthorne stands was originally the garden for 28 High Street and owned by Henry Poyner in the early 1800s. By 1849 he had sold it to original colliery owner Edward Sayer.

Life at Glenthorne for the servants involved long hours, arduous work and little pay serving Thomas Hawkins, 'Mr Tom' as he was known, his wife Alethea and their family.

Thomas and Alethea had a daughter, also named Alethea (b1887), and two sons Osmond and Clarence. Both saw plenty of

by Darren Butler

active service, and Osmond, a Major, was badly injured with shrapnel wounds in June 1915 while commanding his platoon in the trenches and returned to England for hospital treatment. However Clarence, a Captain, paid the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in September 1917 aged just 28.

As a memorial, Mr Tom had an etched glass window of his portrait on the door leading from the hall into the house.

After the war, Osmond and his wife Marion Crutchley Hawkins (nee de Font-blanc) moved into the premises and it remained one of the three Hawkins' residences until Mr Tom and Alethea moved to Aldridge in the mid-20s, selling the snooker building to the left of Glenthorne House and the gardens to the rear to William Wollaston who converted it into a residential dwelling and moved in with his wife Sarah Ann.

Prior to World War II, Glenthorne House was converted into three apartments and became home to the Hills,

Worseys, Pearsons, Albert Pearsons and Alice Holden. The former kitchen and servant areas also became residences.

Thomas Hawkins died in 1936, but his nephew Sydney and his wife Henrietta moved in. Sydney had previously lived at 28 High Street and ran a bakery there.

At the start of World War II the house had been sold to Horace W Thomas who moved into the old snooker building. Around 1957 the house was sold to a Mr Hogens for £6,500 which finally brought to end the 70-year link between Glenthorne House and the Hawkins dynasty.

South Staffs Council later bought Glenthorne House and created five flats. Due to the poor state of the former snooker building the council had to pull it down.

In 1994 a mother and toddler woman's refuge shelter was built where the gardens once flourished. It was sold on three years later to the housing association, which immediately closed down the shelter.

With the high costs of maintaining the property, the house was closed and boarded up in early 2006.



The bakery run by Sydney Hawkins in Cheslyn Hay

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NEWS

Building work starts on £18m retirement village

CONSTRUCTION has begun on a £18million retirement village on the site of a former school in Cradley.

Once completed, it will offer 120 apartments along with facilities including a restaurant, gym, library and shop.

The Midland Heart development is being built on land where Cradley High School stood before it was demolished in 2010.

Officials from the developer along with cabinet member for adult and community services, Councillor Dave Branwood gathered to mark the start of work on the project.

Midland Heart's director of assets' Carl Larter, said: "With the help of our partners, we are pleased to be leading on a project that brings significant investment into the area and create much needed purpose-built accommodation for older people."

Follows

"Our partnership on the project has gone from strength to strength and today marks another step closer to bringing the concept of extra care housing to Cradley."

The development follows recent schemes - Broad Meadow in Midlepark Road, Russells Hall, and Willowfields, Whitehouse Street, Coseley.

Councillor Branwood said: "The well-being of our older citizens and ensuring they have a decent quality of life in their older years is one of our key priorities."

"We know that the older population is increasing and that people will be living longer."

"Over the last few years the council has helped to develop a range of flexible housing solutions to support older people."

"Extra care housing is just one of our popular housing options that helps



Richard Cornes, of William Davis, Carl Larter and Councillor Dave Branwood

people maintain their independence whilst at the same time providing tailored support, social activities and everyday facilities in a safe environment."

The development was given the go-ahead in March despite opposition from residents living near the site, off Slade Road, on grounds they thought it was unsuitable for the development and it would cause disruption.

The friends group for the nearby Homer Hill Park had also objected to the scheme, fearing it would have a

negative impact on the park. The designs were scaled back after concerns were raised that it would tower over neighbouring properties.

The apartments would be available to buy or rent, or be taken on as shared ownership. Each will have its own front entrance.

Bigger apartments will have a second bedroom, with enough space for wheelchair access. There will be garden and woodland areas.

The development is due to be completed in the spring of 2015.

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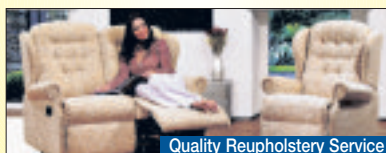
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NEWS

Crash driver learned of death via Facebook post

THE driver of a car that knocked down a 21-year-old who died hours later of his injuries discovered what he had done the next morning on Facebook, an inquest has heard.

Thomas Cox was hit by a car in Sedgley on the evening of his birthday, and died the following morning, the inquest in Smethwick heard yesterday.

Driver Ben Davies, who had failed to stop at the scene of the accident, told police the next day that he heard the 'bang' but 'didn't know what it was' at the time.

In the police interview which was read out at the hearing, Davies, of Old Park Road, Dudley, told officers: "I didn't know what had happened until this morning, I saw it on Facebook."

He added that a friend had posted an appeal for the driver to come forward.

He said: "It was just on there, it was on the news feed."

It was after seeing this appeal that he told his parents what had happened, and visited the police station.

Appeared

The hearing heard that no-one witnessed the hit-and-run collision which happened at around 11pm on November 17.

Mr Cox, of Turton Road, Tipton, was discovered lying on the pavement, and he was taken to hospital. The ex-Willingsworth High School pupil died the next day from head injuries.

During the police interview which was read out at the inquest, Davies said he was driving towards Dudley on Dudley Road, Sedgley, near the Leopard pub.

The 21-year-old said: "It just appeared. I just hit it like. It was on my side of the car."

He told officers he didn't have time to brake. He slowed down but did not stop.

Assistant deputy coroner Angus Smillie recorded a verdict of accidental death.

In April, Davies was jailed for 26 weeks after he admitted failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

Boost for deaf children



Gill Pillar, left, and Shelagh James, with teacher Dawn Bevington, seated, and parents and children from the Dudley Deaf Children's Society, with pupils from Ashwood Park Primary School, Stourbridge

A CHARITY helping deaf children has spent more than £3,000 on new technology to be used in schools in Dudley borough.

Dudley Deaf Children's Society secretary Shelagh James handed over the Parrot Plus 2 to Dudley Council's head of hearing impairment service Gill Pillar at Ashwood Park Primary School, Stourbridge.

The equipment will mean teachers and carers will have a better idea of the extent of deafness in the child.

It will help them build an education programme around the children. The equipment cost £3,100 and was partly paid for thanks to a community grant from The Co-operative.

It comes as schools see a gradual rise in the number of children with hearing impairments they admit each year.

Across the borough's schools there is about 400 children with hearing problems. At Ashwood there are about 40.

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NEWS

Volunteers to step up security at churchyard

SECURITY has been stepped up at a Dudley church following vandalism which has outraged campaigners working to reopen it.

A family grave dating back 130 years was smashed in a recent attack and now the lychgate entrance to St John's Church, Kates Hill has been covered in graffiti.

The preservation group which is fundraising to enable the church to be used by the community appealed for volunteers to help patrol the grounds.

Teams have been recruited to keep an eye out for troublemakers to protect the churchyard.

They will be walking around the site, dressed in high visibility jackets and armed with cameras to record evidence, in a bid to deter thieves.

Selfish

Deb Brownlee, chairman of St John's Church Preservation Group, said: "We are asking people to make a commitment of two hours a month to assist with this."

"The grounds, and views are too beautiful and peaceful to have them spoilt by a handful of selfish, thoughtless, mannerless idiots."

Volunteers will also be

briefed on the history of the building and the graveyard stories, so they can double as tour guides for visitors.

The preservation group is waiting to hear whether it can lease the building from the Church Commissioners as part of its plans to re-open it to the public.

The stone which was damaged bore the names of Sarah Cautherington, who died on July 10, 1884, in her 67th year; her husband James, who followed her to the grave, aged 77, 12 years later, and their daughter Mary Ann Cautherington, who was 59 when she passed away in 1899.

Mrs Brownlee is appealing for descendants of the Cautheringtons to contact her on 07871 195042 or email savestjohnchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Students boldly go to space agency



Pupils Zoe Heeley and Jack Bishop with teachers Anna Pinto and Spencer Willis outside the school observatory

STAR-GAZING students have been given a glimpse of life as an astronaut during a school trip. Year 10 pupils and teachers from The Kingswinford School travelled to the European Space Agency in Noordwijk, Netherlands.

The group was treated to a presentation hosted by astronaut Andre Kuipers, who provided an inside view of life in space as part of the event Mission X - Train Like An Astronaut. Students also had a chance to take part in an astronaut school, receiving tips direct from astronauts training in Houston. The students were among a select group of only 50 children chosen to represent their countries.

The school's director of science, Anna Pinto, said: "Space exploration is an international business. It was an honour to represent our school, the UK and to be able to share the successes and ideas of our school."

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Amy misses race but raises cash



Fundraiser Amy Passey made £750 painting nails

A SCHOOLGIRL took to painting the nails of friends and family to raise hundreds of pounds for charity after being unable to take part in fundraising event.

Amy Passey, aged 13, was diagnosed last month with anorexia and couldn't join 2,000 other competitors at last month's Race For Life event in Himley. Determined to still raise cash for Cancer Research UK, the student at Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank, decided to provide manicures from her home instead.

Over the weekend, Amy painted the nails of more than 70 people, raising

£570. She said: "I was unable to do the Race for Life so looked for something else to do. I enjoy painting nails, so opened my home up for people to have their nails done."

"I was surprised how many people came. It turned out well and I raised a lot of money."

Amy, who wants to become a teacher, said she planned other similar events, while also battling her eating disorder.

Difficult

Her mother Angela thanked people for their support for Amy and the family.

She said: "It is a very difficult time. It's going to take a long time to put right, but we're all strong and we're

grateful for all the support we have had so far."

She said Amy was diagnosed with the condition last month. She was taken to the doctor after Angela noticed her stopping eating her food and losing weight.

She was unable to take part in the race, which was 3km or 5km, because of a lack of nutrition. Her mother said: "We're all really proud of her, and what she has done to raise so much money for charity."

More than 2,000 women took part of the Race For Life event at Himley Park earlier this month, raising about £135,000. Due to the success of the race a further event will be staged at the park later this year.

Homes and firms to get fast broadband

HOMES and businesses in Stourbridge will be among 2,220 in the region to get the latest high-speed broadband as part of a £2.5 billion roll-out project by BT.

The work is due to be completed by the end of next spring and is expected to help create jobs and boost the economy.

Across the region more than 1.2 million households and businesses can now get fibre broadband and this figure is expected to reach about 1.73m next year. Mike Cook, BT regional director for the West Midlands, said: "We're pleased to announce further investment in fibre broadband as part of our continuing commitment to make the technology as widely available as possible. Fast, sophisticated connections are the cornerstone of a successful community, impacting on many aspects of modern life and providing a platform for new businesses and jobs."

Mr Cook said future-proofed fibre broadband transforms the way online services are used from entertainment and education to shopping and social networking. It can also enhance firms' competitiveness.

Names needed for volunteers of year awards

THE search is on to find the best volunteers in the Dudley borough with the launch of an annual awards scheme.

Five of last year's Dudley Volunteer Awards winners came together to mark the start of nominations for this year's scheme.

The volunteers who scooped the awards last year unveiled a new poster campaign as part of the launch in the hope of inspiring more people to help their communities.

Nominations are wanted for people who make a difference through community action, health, sport, the environment and safety.

Two special awards will be presented to the young volunteers of the year.

The long service award will be presented in memory of former Dudley CVS Chair Gordon Lindsay.

Individuals or groups can

be put forward as long as their volunteering is unpaid activity. The closing date is for votes is September 6.

Shortlisted volunteers will be invited to a gala event at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in October.

Eileen Fielding, from Dudley Volunteer Centre, said: "Many of us know people who give their time every day to make our local communities even more vibrant."

Massive

"Dudley Volunteer Awards is a fantastic opportunity to thank these people for the massive difference that they make and we are delighted that people who were recognised last year have joined us to call for nominations".

Nomination forms can be picked up from borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus or downloaded from www.dudleycvcs.org.uk.

Motorcyclists roar in with charity cash

A STOURBRIDGE motorcycle club has raised hundreds of pounds for a Birmingham charity.

The Railway Rally Club in Lye raised £500 for the Ronald McDonald House, a charity and donation-funded home allowing accommodation for families with children being treated at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Members organised a fun day at the Railway Pub, Pedmore Road, which included a barbecue, games, competition and live music. There was also a 1980s-themed disco and the Wolverhampton bobsled team also made an appearance dressed as Oompah-Loompahs.

Organiser Nicki O'Sullivan said: "I am so pleased we were able to raise such a fantastic amount of money for a great cause. The Ronald McDonald House acts as a lifeline to many families and it is the club's charity of the year."

"I would like to thank everybody who turned up and showed their support during the day and donated money."

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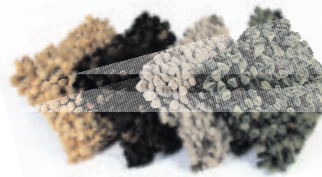
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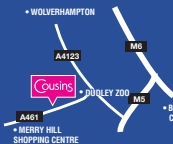
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Two days departing September 7

PRICE FROM £139.95

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NEWS

Pupils book their place in sculpture for library



Artist Luke Perry with Annabelle Lilley and Oscar Hamilton-Roderick with the designs for parts of the sculpture

DESIGNS have been unveiled for a sculpture to take pride of place outside Stourbridge Library as part of a £50 million redevelopment project.

Stourbridge-based artist Luke Perry has been commissioned by developers to create the piece of artwork.

Work is progressing on the multi-million new Crown Centre which will include a Tesco supermarket.

The sculpture will be installed outside the library's new entrance once the development has been completed.

Mr Perry, who runs the not-for-profit company Industrial Heritage Stronghold which creates heritage-inspired public art, led a series of workshops with children and adults at the

library to discover people's views and love of the town and its history.

He has created a final artwork design that will take the form of hundreds of flying books, cut out of steel and suspended from the ceiling of the new Crown Centre.

Many of the metal books will be cut through with designs based upon peoples' love of the area and their passion for books and reading.

Feature

Characters from fiction will fly alongside personalities from the area through the new atrium which will be opened later this year.

The base of the artwork will feature two life sized relief sculptures in steel of two children from St James' Primary School, Wollaston. Annabelle

Lily and Oscar Hamilton-Roderick took part in the project and were chosen by the artist to star in the artwork.

Dressed in Victorian clothing, they will be captured in stainless steel when their metallic replicas will be set into the wall of the new library entrance.

The first pages and fictional characters will emerge from the books Annabelle and Oscar are holding as the pages wing their way to the ceiling.

Dudley's regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster said: "The design for this artwork has been truly community driven, and I think it's fitting that two of our schoolchildren who have contributed to the design will be immortalised in steel to provide an inspiring welcome to the library for their own and future generations."



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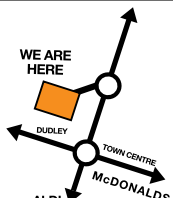
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NEWS

NEWS
in brief**School mountain bikes go in raid**

MOUNTAIN bikes and canoes worth thousands of pounds have been stolen from a school in a village near Stourbridge.

Thieves broke into a storage container at Hagley RC High School, Brake Lane. Twelve bikes and two canoes, which were on a trailer, were taken. The bikes were worth £3,000 and the canoes £1,500.

Police believe there were at least two thieves, who first struck at about 10.40pm on July 17, returning with a van at about 1.30am and again at 3.30am on July 18.

Snow leopards back together

TWO snow leopards at Dudley Zoo have been reintroduced following the sudden death of their 11-week-old cub.

The big cats had been separated since the cub's birth in May, with father Margaash split from mother Nanga and the baby.

But following the death last month, keepers decided to put them back together after they were seen rubbing faces through a partition.

Games support

PLANS for a multi-games area and floodlighting at a Kingswinford school look set to be given council approval despite objections from people living nearby.

Summerhill School, Lodge Lane, has submitted the application.

Life support to paralysed man cut by metal thieves

Hippodrome protest takes to streets

THE proposed demolition of the former Dudley Hippodrome has taken another step forward after planning officers recommended it should go ahead – but campaigners vowed to continue their fight to save it.

Councillors are to decide on the controversial planning application to bring down the historic theatre in Castle Hill at a meeting next Monday.

Planning officers have told councillors they should approve the proposal, paving the way for the former entertainment venue to be replaced with a education and conference centre for Dudley Zoo.

It comes days after campaigners gathered in Dudley's Market Place to raise awareness of the building's plight.

Change

They waved placards and banners, calling on Dudley Council to change its mind and give their proposal to reopen the venue a chance.

But in the report to councillors on council's development control committee, officers said: "The building has been marketed for reuse with no potential occupiers coming forward with a viable business case that would retain the building long term."

Chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, Geoff Fitzpatrick, who organised Saturday's protest, said: "I'm not surprised with the officers' recommendation."

"They hadn't listened to us before, so why are they going to now?"

He added: "This is by no means the end of our fight."



Deborah Dean and her daughter Hannah, aged five, join the protest against plans to demolish the Hippodrome

A WIFE has spoken of how reckless thieves cut the power to her Dudley home, putting her paralysed husband's life in danger. They ripped down and stole the overhead electricity cables supplying the couple's house. Wheelchair-bound Tim Joplin is life support system.

Their actions led to the 61-year-old former Dudley College lecturer having to be brought downstairs by an ambulance crew, using mountain rescue style equipment, because the power cut stopped the lift in their Gornal house from working and he needed to get to an hospital appointment.

Batteries kicked in to keep Mr Joplin's ventilator operating but his wife, Ruth, twice had to get them charged back up at a nearby garage to keep the vital machine going.

Two nearby homes lost power after cables were cut from electricity poles in High Arcal Road in the early hours on Monday.

Mrs Joplin, a lecturer in anatomy at Birmingham University, said: "Whoever stole our power supply put my husband's life at risk."

Realise

"I want to convey to whoever it was that they put him in a life-threatening situation."

"I realise people will go to any lengths, to feed their families or whatever, but they need to look at what they are doing and think of the knock-on effects and dangers of what they are doing."

Mrs Joplin praised kind staff at the nearby Texaco garage, in Himley Road, who allowed her to charge the ventilator batteries as they had only a few hours' life.

She said the power cut started at about 2am and the batteries kicked in, but her husband had been 'upset and distressed' at not being in control of the situation.

By 1pm, when the power had still not been restored, a West Midlands Ambulance Hazardous Area Response Team had to bring Mr



Ruth and Tim Joplin

Joplin downstairs on an airlifted stretcher so that his wife could take him to Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, for his regular treatment.

Western Power Distribution workers have rigged up a generator to provide electricity to the houses until a permanent repair.

West Midlands Police are investigating.

Western spokesman Pami Mandair said: "Metal theft is a nationwide problem but it has escalated in the last few years and is currently costing Western Power Distribution around £1.5 million a year to put right."

Housing schemes get funds of £2.1m

A £2.1 million plan to build homes in two areas of Dudley borough has taken a step forward after funding was secured.

Land in Norfolk Road, Wollaston, and The Walk, Sedgley, has been earmarked for flats for residents with learning disabilities and autism.

The project will also create jobs, including four apprenticeships.

The sites will have a total of 14 flats to support residents to live independently.

Dudley Council has been awarded £385,000 from the Care and Support Specialist Housing Fund.

The adult and community services chief, Councillor Dave Branwood, said: "This announcement is excellent news."

He added: "New schemes like this will allow more and more people to enjoy the security of their own homes in a supported environment rather than being moved into residential care."

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing and community safety, added: "This announcement is a positive step forward to increasing available housing for our residents with learning difficulties."

The homes will be built on brownfield infill sites which have been chosen on the basis of appropriate location and closeness to local facilities and amenities, council bosses said.

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CLUB NEWS

Federation members welcomed

WORDSLEY M TWG

THE July meeting was opened by Chairman of the day Liz Hubbard who welcomed Margaret Brookes and Joyce Major – representatives from the federation, guild members and visitors.

Secretary Liz Moseley, gave details of a trip to Boundary Mill and a future canal trip. The federation report, given by Ann Birchell, contained details of the Harvest Supper on Wednesday October 9th at Wollaston Village Hall.

The next lunch meeting will be at the Holly Bush, Penn on August 5th.

The next coffee morning will be at the home of Pat Caddick on Wednesday July 17 and at Margaret Ford's on August 14 both, 10.30am.

Tickets for the forthcoming show The Full Monty on September 25 at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, are going well and a possible outing to a Tinsel & Turkey visit may be arranged.

The guild will book a table at the Community Association Christmas Bazaar on December 7 with a 'prize every time tombola'.

The chairman then introduced Lizzie Spicer who gave a very interesting talk about The History of Handbags.

The next group meeting will be on Monday August 19 when there will be a Harvest Table Sale followed by entertainment. Wordsley Guild meets every third Monday of the month at Wordsley Green Community Centre, 10am.

President Doreen is on fourth term



New President of Sedgley & Wombourne Inner Wheel Club, Doreen Pike, third from left, with fellow members at Wombourne carnival. This is the second time since being District Chairman and fourth time overall Doreen has held this office. In her spare time she is also the organist at Wombourne Methodist Church.

SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE INNER WHEEL

Birthday dinner a success

THE monthly meeting of Grange E guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on July 2.

Chairman Hazel Smith presided. Jill Attwood reported the birthday dinner at the Vine Inn, Clent, had been a huge success.

Marlene O'Hanlon reported the lunch club was still going well. Marlene also gave out further information regarding shoe boxes

GRANGE E GUILD

which members were asked to fill with suitable items for children in various age groups.

The speaker for the evening was Patricia Boyd who gave a very interesting talk called What the Butler Saw. A vote of thanks was given by the chairman.

All members attending

the West Midlands Federation Luncheon at the Mill Hotel, Alveley were Informed reception would be at 11.30am for lunch at 12.30pm. The raffle was drawn and prizes awarded.

Any interested ladies are invited to come to any of the meetings as guests, where you will receive a very warm welcome. For further information please contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

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REVIEWS

It's all confidential as hit show secrets are revealed

Strictly Confidential, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
IT is no secret that Lisa Riley can dance, as fans of Strictly Come Dancing would testify. However, the popular actress proved an all-round entertainer, taking a lead role in this production as well as singing a couple of numbers.

Larger than life Riley was a surprising dark horse during the last series of the BBC show. She was joined here by three of the show's professionals, namely Ian Waite, Artem Chitnitsev and Natalie Lowe.

In it, the stars reveal all about themselves, their careers and some of their favourite things in life.

Clips

Strictly obviously features highly, and in this production, the cast relive a selection of their favourite show moments, the dances and the stories behind them, some of it with help of video clips.

There were also other surprising revelations, like the fact that Kings Have Long Arms have an album track entitled Lisa Riley.

She also revealed that celebrities signed up for the show have codenames so they can't be identified by the Press. And she announced she will still have a role to play in this year's series.

Amid all the lavish costume changes and flawless dancing, there are poignant moments in this stage show as Riley remembers her late mother, whom she lost to cancer last year.

There was humorous content in the form of an Emmerdale montage paying homage to Riley's character Mandy Dingle. But it's not all about her.

Chitnitsev, Waite and Lowe, all pre-



The whole cast on stage during Strictly Confidential in Birmingham

vious Strictly finalists, had their share of the limelight, revealing all about themselves in the process.

Fall

The ensemble of backing dancers and musicians played their part. The accompanying music was cleverly chosen and it was altogether well-choreographed. Riley's fall downstairs

was not scripted, however, although it did bring amusement to her fellow cast. Written and directed by Craig Revell Horwood, there is only one way to describe the show: Fab-u-lous.

Strictly confidentially, Lowe revealed she was looking for love. Keep it to yourself, but I found myself drawn to the long-legged Aussie beauty.

Mark Shipp

Geeky twins who broke the mould of pop world

The Very Best of The Proclaimers
25 years, 1987-2012

BACK in the late 1980s two "geeky" looking twin boys broke the mould of the pop charts.

They weren't in any way shape or form glam, they had made that often unwelcome transition from the folk circuit to the pop market while incorporating a sort of punk element and by doing everything pop stars shouldn't do.

They had no gimmicks, their singing was unadorned and had the strongest Scottish accent this side of a bad Billy Connolly impersonation and they sang about places most people had no idea existed.

Although not massively productive, they have made nine albums in 26 years - you do the maths, Craig and Charlie Reid are still going strong and are still in great demand from many sectors of the media.



The Proclaimers have hit 25 years

Whether it's from radio, TV ads or film scores it pretty much a given that everyone at some time has not only heard The Proclaimers from Leith in Scotland but it's almost certain they have not only sung but know all the lyrics to their massive hits Letter From America and I'm Gonna To Be (500

Miles). While these may be the best introduction to this double album compilation there is so much more from this duo which shows the depth of talent and versatility from their back catalogue of albums, many of which have been remastered.

From songs which have the feel of the 1950s such as What Makes You Cry? and the Buddy Holly-like Throw the "R" Away to really emotive ballads such as Shadows Fall and Love Can Move Mountains which show the subtle side of the twins' singing, moving away from the raucous chart songs with which they are generally associated.

Included on this double CD are playfully jaunty songs which have acerbic and witty lyrics such as "she snorts a line of coke before an audience with the Pope" from Role Model a track which has a wonderful skiffle feel about it.

The Very Best of The Proclaimers is out now from Persevere Records.

Simpson around the kitchen table

Vagrant Stanzas - Martin Simpson

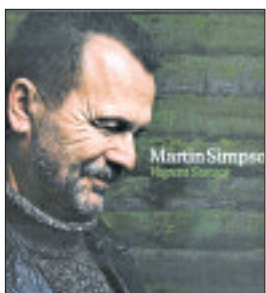
SUCH is the influence of Martin Simpson in that wherever you go within the folk circuit sooner or later his name will crop up.

Simpson, now in his 60th year and with more than 35 years of playing around the world under his belt, can be mentioned in the same way people talk about Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan.

The problem is after 35 years of peddling your trade and being acknowledged as one of the world's best acoustic and slide guitarists what do you do next? Simpson's answer?

Get back around your kitchen table pick up your guitar and with nothing else but your strings just play, which is pretty much what he has done.

Vagrant Stanzas is the kind of album which stirs the soul, almost every track is filled with emotion which touches something deep in your humanity right from the opening track, Diamond



Martin Simpson - a simple answer

Joe, which not only gives you the Simpson's sound but also brings you into the world of his banjo picking.

Simpson is a wonderfully accomplished and respected musician but he is also a consummate storyteller.

In tracks such as Jackie and Murphy his voice paints a vivid picture of the lives and events he is singing about.

With his intricate interpretations Simpson has successfully fused Americana, old time blues and traditional folk into an art form which retains the rawness of the people's music.

Deluxe

His latest album which is being released in two versions, the standard one and deluxe edition with extra tracks and information, was officially launched at the Cambridge Folk Festival on Sunday.

While it's often a lazy cliché to say an album is an instant classic in this case it's simply the truth.

Vagrant Stanzas is on the Topic Records label.

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PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

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MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTW fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 355785

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449

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48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

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LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTW caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

I am Tracy 39yr old young chatty single female looking for older male to look after me and show me some much needed attention with discretion and no ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405293

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SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

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FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374432

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTW tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTW male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

BIG is beautiful! Voluptuous, sensual female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-40 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

33YR old busty black haired, medium build, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753

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ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty white male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, would like to take you out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551

MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295

46YR old stocky male, no lies, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTW lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks pretty lady. 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

MALE 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTW female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871

CARING male looking for LTR with lady 50's-60's, 17stone plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404585

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 369663

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeks genuine lady, mid 50-60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404837

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTW lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313

NEWS

Thief walked out of pub carrying viagra machine

College tees up contest

STOURBRIDGE College's Centre of Sporting Excellence is organising an open golf tournament for anyone aged under 18 with a golfing handicap.

The event, on August 13, will be held at Hagley Golf & Country Club, starting at 1pm.

It will include an 18-hole stroke play medal, closest to the pin and longest drive awards.

David Faulkner, golf academy co-ordinator at the college, said: "Our new golf academy is going from strength to strength as part of our Centre of Sporting Excellence, allowing school leavers to continue playing the sport they love whilst studying for an academic qualification."

Welcome

One such student is Kathryn Brookes, who is studying golf at the college.

Entries must be received by August 9 and entry forms are available on the website www.stourbridge.ac.uk

Hagley golf professional Paul Johnson said: "Even if you're not at college or looking to take up a place on the golf academy you are more than welcome to come and enjoy our facilities."

More information is available by ringing 01384 399641.



College golfing student Kathryn Brookes

A THIEF removed a machine filled with packs of herbal viagra from the men's toilets at a Stourbridge pub before walking off with it under his arm, a court heard.

Sean Michael Fitzgerald tore the machine off the wall at the Britannia Pub, Wollaston High Street, at around 9.20pm on March 29.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard that the 38-year-old had been caught on CCTV. He had left the pub with the machine under his arm wrapped in a black plastic bag.

The court was told last week that Fitzgerald, of Armstrong Close, Stourbridge, had caused £50 damage to the wall. The machine was worth £100 and contained money and tablets totalling £120.

He pleaded guilty to theft and was given a three-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay compensation of £220.

He also has to pay a £100 towards the cost of the case and a £15 victim surcharge.

Problems

Mrs Lynda Gudgeon, prosecuting, said: "CCTV stills were viewed by police showing the defendant removing the machine from the wall and walking out of the pub. This was how he was identified by police."

Mr Mandeep Bassi, defending, said his client had rehabilitated himself from a drug addiction but now had problems with alcohol dependency. He said Fitzgerald was already serving a community order for an unrelated matter and urged the court to let this continue as he was getting help with his alcohol addiction.

"He has been making great progress with this and has attended every session with the probation service," he said.

"This crime predates him being given this order. I would ask he be given the opportunity to continue getting help."

Magistrates agreed to this when sentencing, giving credit for his guilty plea.

Pub landlord Wayne Etheridge previously said he had been left "shocked" by the theft and had never known anything like it.

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What's On! Halesowen

Families invited to a mini safari

FAMILIES will be able to enjoy canal trips, a 'mini beast safari' and treasure hunt during a fun day at a Dudley nature reserve.

Bumble Hold Visitors' Centre, Windmill End, Netherton, is hosting the event on August 14 from 10am to 4pm.

Terry Evans, vice chairman of the Bumble Hole Conservation Group, said: "A warm welcome will be given to families wishing to enjoy a lovely day."

The activities will all be free and the attractions will include a visit by furry animals from Dudley Zoo, pond dipping, live music.

Doors to dancing sessions to open

A DANCE company in Halesowen is opening its doors to youngsters during the summer holidays.

Spindle Collective, in Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road, has set up dance and theatre sessions for 10-18 year olds.

The sessions run from August 5 to 9 from 10am until 3pm and cost £10. To book call 07794 491489 or email spindlcollective@gmail.com.

Art on display

A HALESOWEN art group is holding its annual exhibition. Members of the Black Country Artists will display their work at Hurst Green Methodist Church on Narrow Lane, from August 12 to the 17 at 10.30am. Admission is free.

Will.i.am on his way for a powerful performance

TOP producer, performer and songwriter – and the coolest judge on TV's The Voice – Will.i.am is coming to Birmingham's LG Arena this winter for one of only three UK dates.

Seven-time Grammy Award-winner Will.i.am was the founder of The Black Eyed Peas, who sold more than 31 million albums worldwide, and has worked with a roll call of top pop and R&B stars including Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, Justin Bieber and Rihanna.

His new single Bang Bang features on the movie soundtrack of The Great Gatsby and is on the deluxe version of his hit solo album #willpower.

Tickets for his show at the LG on December 4 are available from the ticket hotline on 0844 338 8000.



LG Arena gig – Will.i.am

Mitchel ready to rock Robin

A UNIVERSITY of Wolverhampton student who reached the finals of TV talent show The Voice will perform at the Robin 2 in Bilston next month.

Mitchel Emms will be at Mount Pleasant venue on September 11 with MisterNothing, the 19-year-old's alternative rock project. The Burntwood teenager made it to the quarter finals of The Voice after being selected by Script singer Danny O'Donoghue. Since the show, he has finished his live album, entitled All My Favourite Bands are Dead, to be released this autumn.

"I've had some great times at The Robin 2 and we're really looking to blow the roof of the place this time round with our new headline show," he said.

Box office 01902 401211.



Brigit Forsyth, left, and Sian Phillips in Alan Bennett's play People, re-opening the Rep

The Rep re-opens to People

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre re-opens to the public after its two-and-a-half-year closure and major refurbishment with the popular National Theatre production of Alan Bennett's latest People.

Selina Cadell from the original London cast will be joined by two veteran actresses, Sian Phillips and Brigit Forsyth, both probably best known for their roles in I Claudius and Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads respectively.

The comic and poignant play tells of a culture clash as the elderly owner of a stately home comes under pressure from her archdeacon sister to turn it over to the National Trust.

It is staged at the new revamped Rep in Centenary Square from September 3 to 21. Call 0121 236 4455.

Glass collection goes on display

A PRIVATE collection of glass featuring pieces dating back to the 1600s has gone on display at Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum.

The Roger Pilkington glass has been in the care of Sotheby's and this is the first time it has been on public display. He put the collection together during the 1960s.

Dudley councillor and cabinet member for environment and culture, Tracy Wood, said: "We are really privileged to have this collection on loan."

History society is to host talk

THE history society in the village of Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, will hear about plans to restore the gardens of Hagley Hall.

The talk, by Joe Hawkins, head gardener at the stately home, will be at Belbroughton Church Hall on September 18. A meeting will be held at 7.45pm with the talk at 8pm.

Non-members welcome. Admission is £2.50.

Museum sleuths

VISITORS to the Black Country Living Museum can put their sleuthing skills to the test over the summer holiday. Each week of the holiday there will be a new mystery to solve and a culprit to find around the attraction, in Tipton Road, Dudley.



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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 3.08.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE


A Tribute to Mel Smith
BBC2, 10.10pm

He may not have been as regular on TV as he was back in the 1980s and 1990s, but Mel Smith remains one of the most instantly recognisable faces in British comedy. His death on July 19 shocked those who grew up watching him in the likes of Not the Nine O'Clock News, Colin's Sandwich, and Muck and Brass. But it was for his partnership with Griff Rhys Jones that Smith will probably forever be remembered. This documentary features clips from many of his most memorable projects, as well as tributes from his friends and fans.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 Swimming: World Championships. 2.30 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. 4.25 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 5.35 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989). Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. 7.30 **1 Love My Country. New series. Gabby Logan hosts this celebrity game show. 8.20 **The National Lottery: Break the Safe.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete in several quiz rounds, with the winners playing for the money in the safe. 9.10 **Casualty.** Trainee doctor Lily uncovers a link between three apparently unconnected patients, while Dixie helps a woman knocked over by a cyclist. Honor Blackman guest stars. 10.00 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Dermot gets cold feet in the run-up to his wedding. (R) 10.30 **BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.** 10.50 **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.** Featuring Patrick Kielty, Neil Delamere, Jeff Green and Kerry Godliman. (R) 11.35 **The Football League Show.** Manish Ghosh presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, on the opening weekend of the Football League season. 12.55 Weatherview. 1.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 7.00 Film: The Adventures of Michael Strogoff. (1937) 8.20 Film: The Private Affairs of Bel Ami. (1947) 10.10 Reel History of Britain. (R) 10.40 The Private Life of Plants. (R) 11.30 University Challenge. (R) 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. 12.45 Talking Pictures. 1.25 Film: Hotel Reserve. (1944) 2.55 Flog It! (R) 3.25 Wild Shepherdess with Kate Humble. (R) 4.25 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. 6.00 **Swimming: World Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage from the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, where this evening's session features the finals of five events and heats in three others. 7.30 **Proms Extra 2013.** With guests Julian Joseph, Tarik O'Regan and Tamara Rojo. 8.10 **David Starkey's Music & Monarchy.** How Great Britain's dominance as a military and economic power in the 18th century inspired patriotic classics, and a look at the pieces Handel wrote for the royal family. 9.10 **Top of the Lake.** A violent incident sees Robin thrown off the case, but she carries on her investigation unofficially and uncovers mobile-phone footage suggesting Tui might still be alive. 10.10 **A Tribute to Mel Smith.** Griff Rhys Jones remembers his friend and former comedy partner, who died last month. 10.45 **Not Again: Not the Nine O'Clock News.** The inside story of the comedy sketch show. (R) 12.15 **Film: The Children.** (2008) 1.35 **Film: Devils of Darkness.** (1965) 3.00 **This Is BBC Two.****

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. 6.40 Poppy Cat. 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Bookaboo. 7.20 Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. 7.35 The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! 8.00 Gravity Falls. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Dinner Date. (R) 9.25 Saturday Cookbook. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Saturday Farm. 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) 1.25 Midsomer Murders. (R) 3.25 Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. (2004) 6.00 **Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 **ITV News: Weather.** 6.30 **You've Been Framed!** (R) 7.00 **You've Been Framed!** (R) 7.30 **Your Face Sounds Familiar.** Four of the celebrities impersonate one final line-up of pop and rock stars, competing to win £50,000 for charity. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host. Last in the series. 8.45 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Coronation Street stars Charlie Condou (Marcus) and Paula Lane (Kylie) team up with their families in an attempt to win big money for charity. Vernon Kay hosts. Last in the series. 9.45 **The Americans.** The FBI hunts for Amador's murderer. 10.35 **ITV News: Weather.** 10.50 **Film: Air America.** (1990) Vietnam War comedy adventure, with Mel Gibson, Robert Downey Jr, Nancy Travis and Bert Kwouk. 12.55 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 British F3. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.35 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 Undercover Boss Canada. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.20 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.20 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.25 **Channel 4 News. 6.55 **Ramadan Diaries.** Short films following British Muslims as they observe the holy month of Ramadan and talk about the effects of fasting. Part of the 4Ramadan season. 7.00 **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud revisits Mimi and Andre da Costa, who set out to construct a sustainable two-storey timber house in the Kent countryside, heated by glass panels. (R) 8.00 **Film: X-Men.** (2000) Mutant outsiders with strange powers fight to defend mankind from a superhuman terrorist faction. Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart. 10.00 **Film: Kick-Ass.** (2010) Premiere. A teenager sets out to become a superhero, but finds real-life crime-fighting much more dangerous than in comics. Action comedy, starring Aaron Johnson and Nicolas Cage. 12.15 Rude Tube. (R) 1.15 **Film: Aeon Flux.** (2005) 2.50 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.05 Deal or No Deal. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Power Rangers: Megaforce. 10.50 Sluggterra. 11.10 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.45 Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 1.10 Film: A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde. 4.30 CSI: NY. (R) 5.30 **Film: Jesse Stone: No Remorse. (2010) Detective thriller, starring Tom Selleck. 7.00 **Crickets: The Ashes.** England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day of the Third Test at Old Trafford, where the series passed the halfway point. 8.00 **NCIS.** Part two of two. The safe house is attacked, leaving Vance in hospital and Eli missing, but with all the Palestinians accounted for it is unclear who was responsible. (R) 8.55 **NCIS.** The agents are asked by the deputy district attorney to search for a missing Navy officer scheduled to testify in a forthcoming murder trial. (R) 9.50 **5 News Weekend.** 10.00 **Big Brother.** Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants. 11.00 **Big Brother's Bit on the Psych.** AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour. 12.00 **SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)****

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film:** Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) **11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!**
BBC Four
7.00 The Comet's Tale 8.00 Oceans 9.00 Wallander: The Pyramid 10.30 Folk at the BBC
ITV2
3.00 The Xtra Factor: Boys Best & Worst Ever 4.00 You've Been Framed! 6.30 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.00 Film:** Hot Fuzz (2007) **11.20 Film:** Harold & Kumar Get the Munchies (2004)
ITV3
3.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot 4.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.50 Foyle's War 9.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 11.00 Cold Blood
ITV4
2.20 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) **5.15 Live Pre-Season Football.** Monaco v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.30pm) **7.35 Black Gold 8.30 Police, Camera, Action! 9.00 Hell on Wheels 10.00 Film:** Get Carter (1971)
E4
5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Suburgatory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 Happy Endings 9.00 Film: My Stepmother is an Alien (1988) **11.10 PhoneShop 11.40 The Inbetweeners**
Film4
2.45 Little Manhattan (2005) 4.30 Swiss Family Robinson (1960) 7.05 Monster-in-Law (2005). Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. 9.00 Enemy at the Gates (2001). Second World War drama, starring Jude Law. 11.35 Adrift (2006). Thriller, with Eric Dane and Susan May Pratt.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 4.08.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Lana Parrilla

Once Upon a Time

Channel 5, 8pm

There's a new kid in town in the mystery fantasy but who is he? On the morning after the Dark Curse, he and his father enter Storybrooke in the year 1983, but find it hard to leave when Regina invites the pair to stay. When Kurt declines her offer, she makes Sheriff Graham arrest him for 'drunk driving' to ensure he sticks around anyway. However, after witnessing this, Kurt grabs his son, Owen, and runs for the border. Meanwhile, in present day Storybrooke, Regina is in mourning over Cora and determined to destroy Snow White.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **11.30** Live Cycling. **2.00** BBC News: Weather. **2.10** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.55** Earthflight: Flying High. (R) **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Live Cycling.

6.30 **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Steve Backshall searches for lethal animals in Sri Lanka, encountering an elusive leopard, the mugger crocodile, the Indian rock python and the blue whale. Last in the series.

7.00 **Celebrity Mastermind.** Famous faces put their knowledge to the test. (R)

7.30 **BBC News: Regional News;** Weather.

8.00 **Countryside.** A visit to the Wyke Valley on the Welsh-English border, where Ellie Harrison goes rock climbing. Plus, a report on the controversial method of gas extraction known as fracking. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 **The White Queen.** A sudden, unexpected turn of events leaves Elizabeth devastated – and before long friends have turned into enemies and family have become murderers as they fight for the throne.

10.00 **BBC News: Regional News;** Weather.

10.25 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You.** Satirical quiz. (R)

11.10 **Room 101 – Extra Storage.** With Terry Wogan, Phil Tufnell and Victoria Coren Mitchell. (R)

11.50 **The Sky at Night.** The team visits the UK's space cluster in Oxfordshire.

12.10 **Weatherview.** **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Film:** Hindle Wakes. (1952) **7.30** **Around the World in 80 Days.** (R) **8.30** **The Beechgrove Garden.** **9.00** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.30** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.00** **Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well.** (R) **11.30** **EastEnders.** **1.25** **Flog It!** (R) **1.55** **Live Golf:** The Women's British Open.

6.00 **Swimming: World Championships.** Gabby Logan presents coverage from the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona.

7.30 **Porridge.** The inmates face a day of hard labour digging drains on a lonely stretch of moorland – but try to turn the situation to their advantage. (R)

8.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson drives the Jaguar F-Type. Richard Hammond tests the latest Range Rover Sport and James May goes for an adventure in the New Bus for London. Last in the series.

9.00 **Das Auto: The Germans.** Their Cars and Us. Dominic Sandbrook traces the history of Germany's automobile industry and explores the role cars have played in changing the global perception of the country.

10.00 **The Real White Queen and Her Rivals.** Part two of two. The influence the three women had on the monarchy. (R)

11.00 **Film: Irresistible.** (2006) A paranoid housewife becomes convinced another woman is trying to steal her husband and takes drastic steps to protect her marriage. Thriller, with Susan Sarandon.

12.40 **Sign Zone: Countryside.** (R)

1.35 **Holly City.** (R) **2.35** **The 12th Hour.** (R)

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** **Jake and the Neverland Pirates.** **6.25** **Poppy Cat.** **6.40** **Poppy Cat.** **6.50** **Carnivals.** (R) **7.00** **Animals.** (R) **7.10** **Bookaboo.** (R) **7.20** **Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil.** **7.35** **The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes!** **8.00** **Sonny with a Chance.** **8.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Country House Sunday.** **9.25** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.20** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20** **ITV News.**

11.25 **Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind.** (1975) **12.55** **Love Your Garden.** (R) **1.55** **Fool Britannia.** (R) **2.25** **You've Been Framed!** **2.55** **A Touch of Frost.** (R) **5.00** **Film: Liar Liar.** (1997). Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

6.30 **Regional Programme;** Weather.

6.45 **ITV News.** Weather.

7.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** With Eamonn Holmes, Ruth Langford and Brian Dowling.

8.00 **All Star Mr & Mrs.** The three couples competing are West End star Ray Quinn and his wife Emma, TV presenters Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton, and vocal coaches Carrie and David Grant.

9.00 **Law & Order: UK.** A woman's body is found in the Thames.

10.00 **ITV News.** Weather.

10.15 **Perspectives: David Suchet – The Mystery of Agatha Christie.** The Poirot star explores the life and work of the crime writer. (R)

11.15 **Murder, She Wrote.** A friend of Jessica is charged with murder. (R)

12.10 **The Store.** **2.10** **Monk.** (R)

2.55 **Motorsport UK.** **3.45** **ITV News.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Treacle People.** (R) **6.10** **Blancpain Endurance Series.** **7.05** **Ironman 2013.** **7.35** **World Trail Running Championships.** **8.00** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30** **Frasier.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.00** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30** **Deal or No Deal: Deafest.** **2.30** **Film: The Spy Next Door.** (2010) **4.20** **Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief.** (2010)

6.35 **Channel 4 News.**

6.55 **Ramadan Diaries.** Short films following British Muslims as they observe Ramadan.

7.00 **Princess Diana's Dresses: The Auction.** The stories behind some of Diana, Princess of Wales's most memorable outfits, which were put up for auction, including a velvet gown in which she famously danced with John Travolta. (R)

8.00 **The Mill.** Esther arrives at court after assaulting overser Charlie, while Susannah and Daniel get off to a bad start working together and Hannah attends an abolitionist meeting.

9.00 **Southcliffe.** New series. Drama set in a fictional market town where a shooting spree devastates the lives of residents, reporter goes in search of answers.

10.00 **Film: Forrest Gump.** (1994) Oscar-winning comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks.

12.45 **Film: The Good German.** (2006) **2.30** **The Island.** (R) **2.50** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **3.50** **Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** (R) **4.00** **Deal or No Deal.** (R) **4.55** **Secret Eaters.** **5.50** **SuperScrimpers.**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15** **Fifi and the Floortots.** (R) **6.25** **Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.40** **The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet.** **7.00** **Roobarb and Custard Toor.** (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25** **Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **7.35** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **7.40** **City of Friends.** (R) **7.55** **Little Princess.** (R) **8.05** **The Adventures of Bottle Bill and His Best Friend Crabby.** (R) **8.20** **Mio Mao.** (R) **8.25** **Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.40** **Rupert Bear.** **8.55** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Toby's Travelling Circus.** **9.30** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **9.45** **Jelly Jam.** **10.00** **Power Rangers Samurai.** **10.10** **Sluggers.** **11.00** **Meerkat Manor.** (R) **11.30** **Big Brother.** (R) **12.30** **BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday.** **1.30** **World's Worst Holiday Horrors.** (R) **2.30** **Film: The Rocketeer.** (1991) **4.40** **Film: The Man in the Iron Mask.** (1998)

7.00 **Cricket: The Ashes.** England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from Old Trafford, where the Third Test of the five-match series continued with the fourth day's play.

8.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Regina vows to kill Snow White for her part in Cora's death.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Big Brother.**

10.00 **Film: Blade II.** (2002) Thriller with Wesley Snipes.

12.15 **Love/Hate.** (R) **1.15** **SuperCasino.** **4.00** **Nick's Quest.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** **Great Movie Mistakes III:** Not in 3D **8.00** **Shoplife 9.00** **Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents 10.00** **Family Guy 10.25** **Family Guy: 200 Episodes Later 10.45** **Badutts 11.15** **American Dad!**

BBC Four **7.00** **A Poet's Guide to Britain 7.30** **Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics 9.15** **Egypt's Lost Cities 10.45** **Alan Whicker's Journey of a Lifetime 11.45** **Fairport Convention: Who Knows Where the Time Goes?**

ITV2 **3.00** **Film: A Cinderella Story (2004)** **4.55** **Film: Step Up (2006)** **7.00** **Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002)** **9.00** **Film: Whip It (2009)** **11.20** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 11.55** **Hell's Kitchen**

ITV3 **3.00** **Film: Carry On Girls (1973)** **4.45** **Wycliffe 5.55** **Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00** **Film: Bird on a Wire (1990)** **11.20** **A Touch of Frost**

ITV4 **11.15** **Live British Touring Car Championship 6.00** **BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights 7.00** **Goodwood Festival of Speed 2013 8.00** **Premiership Rugby Union**

Sevens 9.00 **Film: Tango & Cash (1989)** **11.05** **Film: Tremors (1989)**

E1 **3.35** **How I Met Your Mother 5.00** **The Mindy Project 5.30** **The Big Bang Theory 7.00** **New Girl 7.30** **How I Met Your Mother 8.00** **Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002)** **10.05** **The Intergalactic 10.40** **Skins: Rise – Part One 11.45** **Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23**

Film4 **3.10** **Inspector Gadget (1999)** **4.45** **In Good Company (2004)** **6.55** **She's the Man (2006)** **9.00** **Star Trek (2009)** **11.30** **12 Rounds (2008)**

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Thief of Bagdad, Channel 4, 1.05pm

A daring Arabian thief finds himself imprisoned with the deposed king, and together the pair devise a plan to escape and reclaim the throne – with a little help from flying carpets, a genie, a magical jewel and an enchanted mechanical horse. Fantasy adventure, starring Sabu, Conrad Veidt, Rex Ingram, John Justin and June Dupree. (1940)

TUESDAY

Cocoon, Channel 4, 1.05pm

The elderly residents of a retirement home treat themselves to an occasional dip in the pool at an abandoned house. It turns out that friendly aliens in human form are using the place to restore dormant members of their species – and energy from their cocoons is giving the old-timers a new lease of life. Ron Howard's sci-fi drama, with Wilford Brimley, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn and Steve Guttenberg. (1985)

WEDNESDAY

Inside Man, ITV, 10.35pm

A police hostage negotiator is called in when a robbery turns into a siege. The chairman of the bank involved is worried the mastermind behind the heist is set to disclose secrets he needs to stay hidden, so he enlists the help of a political fixer. However, the elaborate nature of the thief's plan looks set to keep him one step ahead of the law, and causes problems for the detective assigned to rectify the situation. Spike Lee's thriller, with Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster, Christopher Plummer, Willem Dafoe and Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2006)



Inside Man, Wednesday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Final Analysis, BBC1, 11.35pm

A psychiatrist treats a woman who is repressing traumatic memories. He meets his patient's sister in the hope of learning more about their troubled childhood, but they end up having an affair. The shrink later learns his lover is married to a psychopathic gangster, and is drawn into a murderous plot. Thriller, starring Kim Basinger, Richard Gere and Eric Roberts. (1992)

FRIDAY

Bridget Jones's Diary, ITV, 10.35pm

A single woman begins a new year with resolutions to find love, give up her bad habits and step up the career ladder. Her plans crumble as she tries to deal with her mother's infidelity, get over a passionate fling with her boss and come to terms with her feelings for an uptight lawyer. Romantic comedy, based on Helen Fielding's novel, starring Renee Zellweger, Hugh Grant and Colin Firth. (2001)

Pick of the Week

David looks for answers following a tragic event

The makers of Southcliffe must have been kicking themselves when they saw Broadchurch. Like the hit ITV drama, it's set in a small, close-knit, fictional town.

It features a tragic event that rips the soul out of a marriage, a national news reporter on the hunt for answers, and a community torn apart.

So, you could say that the producers of this new, four-part drama had their thunder stolen somewhat. However, once you get into the plot and characters, it's clear that actually, the similarities are superficial – unlike Broadchurch, it's not a whodunit: the killer is known right from the start – and it's more than capable of standing on its own two feet and winning a new set of fans.

Written by Tony Grisoni, who also penned Channel 4's adaptations of David Peace's Red Riding novels, it was directed by Sean Durkin, who came to prominence thanks to his acclaimed film Martha Marcy May Marlene.

Although many assumed he'd be

off to Hollywood to make something on a massive budget, Durkin preferred to return to the UK.

"I love being in the UK," he says. "I have lived in New York for 18 years, but coming back to England feels like home, and I have the chance to catch up with a few Arsenal games!"

"The whole preconception that making TV is different to film is ridiculous. You're filming drama with great actors, so there is absolutely no difference."

"All I ever want to do is create truthful moment after truthful moment. That's what directing is about: capturing something that is honest and engaging. I hope I have done that."

Southcliffe begins at dawn one morning, with the sound of gunshots. It seems that somebody has randomly opened fire on several locals, killing them and leaving their friends and relatives shocked and unable to deal with the tragedy.

As they attempt to handle their grief, reporter David Whitehead returns to Southcliffe, the town

where he grew up, in an attempt to find out what sparked the incident, and to deal with ghosts from his past.

"Southcliffe is not the story of the killer," explains Durkin. "It's the story of the journalist who goes back to report on the tragedy, and it's also about the people left behind, the community. It's about ordinary people."

Rory Kinnear plays the reporter in question, while the 'ordinary people' are portrayed by such luminaries as Eddie Marsan, Shirley Henderson and Sean Harris.

"I formed some fantastic relationships with both the cast and crew," claims the director. "When I started work on Southcliffe I didn't know anyone at all so it was like starting at a new school."

"Luckily for me, we had an incredible cast and crew working on this project and as a result of everyone being so collaborative and open it was a wonderful experience."

And in the process, he's managed to whitewash our memories of Broadchurch – for now, at least.



Rory Kinnear stars in Southcliffe, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Celebs, Brands and Fake Fans: Channel 4 Dispatches, Channel 4, 8pm

Companies don't spend thousands gaining a celebrity's endorsement for nothing. They know that fans of the personality involved are more likely to try their products if they're linked to somebody they like than if they weren't. But is every endorsement quite what it seems? Film-maker Chris Atkins isn't sure; he suspects that the rise and rise of social media has led to the development of underhand tactics by certain marketing specialists who are managing to manipulate such sites as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to benefit their clients. But how are they managing to do this? Atkins travels to Bangladesh, where he uncovers some interesting, if disturbing, facts about the matter.

The Billion Dollar Wreck Hunt

Channel 5, 8pm

Channel 5 has a canny knack for bringing us series after series focusing on the men and women around the world who have some of the most exciting jobs imaginable. Whether it's those Ice Road Truckers or the Deadliest Catch gang, these are people for whom danger and excess are in the job description. The station's latest daring doc kicks off tonight, with a three-part series focusing on the work of deep-water salvage company Odyssey Marine Exploration, as it attempts to locate and recover treasure from three shipwrecks. First on the radar is the SS Gairsoppa, a steamer that sank in 1941 – apparently carrying a fortune in silver bullion.

TUESDAY

Stephen Fry's Key to the City, ITV, 9pm

We've heard the phrase 'A celebrity is granted keys to the city' countless times over the years, but what does it mean? "Well, you'll see in the film, there are supposed benefits, which may or may not be legendary, but let's just say I push the envelope," remarks Stephen Fry in this one-off documentary exploring his own privileges. He'll be touring the City of London, discovering the hidden mysteries of this rich and powerful square mile. Highlights include a trip to the Bank of England's vaults and drama at the London Metal Exchange as dealers buy and sell stocks. "It's an incredible circle of people, yelling at each other so hard you think they're going to have apoplexy," he explains.

WEDNESDAY

How Not to Get Old

Channel 4, 8pm

If you want a consumer guide to the anti-ageing industry, then this show should be just the ticket. The first episode centres on ageing bellies and wrinkly eyes. Two people with specific worries have surgery in an attempt to turn back the clock. Anna Richardson tries out the latest fat-reducing treatments in an attempt to get her 20-year-old's thighs back. Plus, Louise Redknapp gets some tips from celeb make-up

artist Charlotte Tilbury, and the unregulated world of dermal fillers also comes under the microscope. Like Cher, we may not be able to turn back time, but this show might give you some guidance on looking a few years younger at least.

Who Do You Think You Are?

BBC1, 9pm

In the mid to late 1990s you couldn't move for Minnie Driver projects such as Good Will Hunting and Hard Rain. Now 43, single mum Minnie lives in Los Angeles with her son, Henry, four. Her parents met in 1962 and were together for 13 years. They split when Minnie was six, and during that time her dad was married to somebody else and had another family. She didn't know her parents weren't married until she was 12 or 13. With such 'big gaps' in her family's history, Minnie wants to be able to fill them for her son.

Thanks to a book found at a Kent jumble sale, she has a lead to get started on her quest...



THURSDAY

The Field of Blood

BBC1, 9pm

The first series of The Field of

Blood, based on Denise Mina's best-selling books, was a success in 2011, so it's a surprise that it's taken so long for a follow-up to appear. But, as the saying goes, better late than never... Most of the original members cast are back, augmented by Katherine Kelly as Maloney, the tough new editor-in-chief sent to transform the struggling Daily News' fortunes. She could hit pay dirt immediately when Paddy, the focus of the first series who has now landed her dream job in the busy newsroom, and reporter McVie accidentally find a story that turns out to be red hot. Initially it seems to be a fairly standard domestic violence case, until links to kidnap, murder, political conspiracy and police corruption are revealed.

FRIDAY

Celebrity MasterChef

BBC1, 8.30pm

ITV's Ade in Britain, a charming mix of travelogue and cookery sketches, proved Adrian Edmondson is one of the best presenters on the box. Of course, cooking in some random part of the UK with his mini stove is one thing. Toiling over a dish trying to impress Gregg Wallace and John Torode is something else altogether. All of which preamble brings us to the latest helping, the second quarter-final. Reigning champion Emma Kennedy, 2011 winner Phil Vickery and 2010 finalist Christine Hamilton are helping judge the contestants' efforts in their final challenge – to prepare a two-course meal. By this stage, Ade could have been shown the door, leaving John Thomson, Phillips Idowu and Denise Black.

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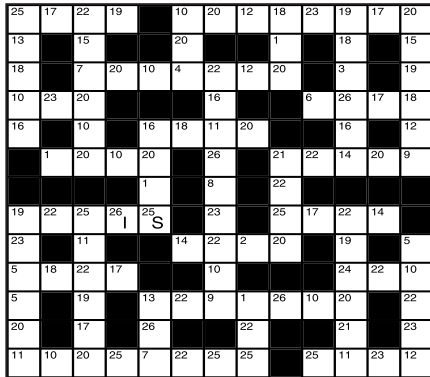
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.232

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
V	C	S	L	K	M	X	W	Q	E	A	J	U
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	B	H	T	F	N	Z	R	O	D	G	P	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

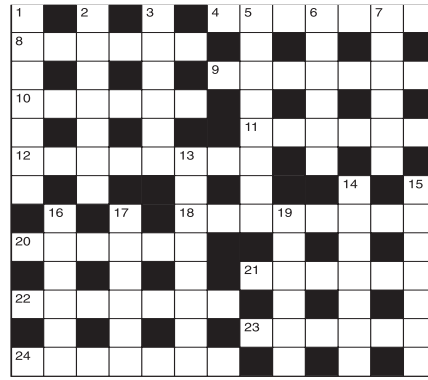
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Present-day attitude about one kind of tissue (7)
 8. A stretcher that's left lying about (6)
 9. How the horse-man makes a street journey (7)
 10. Innumerable forgotten relations are! (6)
 11. The private soldier shows acrimony, we hear (6)
 12. Ironmongery, and what it will stand, by the sound of it (8)
 18. Wholesale slaughter - that's a service measure (8)
 20. Gas tube twisted round an insertion (6)
 21. A talker - but he's usually shut up! (6)
 22. Endless mad rush created an impression (7)
 23. He is third, but I am first (6)
 24. Provide a new suit of clothes as compensation (7)

Down

1. More than one detective hustles all over the place (7)
 2. Monumental figure having right physical height (7)
 3 & 17 Dn. Appropriate implement a coward may use to strike a bird! (12)
 5. I'd returned to emphasise the misfortune (8)
 6. Closely studying Post Office telephone call (6)
 7. Gloomy study to have a depressing effect (6)
 13. The same term for electrical accessories (8)
 14. She works at playtime (7)
 15. Declining a musical adaptation (7)
 16. Part of a period costume to create a commotion (6)
 17. See 3 Down
 19. They have a variety of means for going round the East (6)
 24. Relies (7)



Quick Clues:

Across

4. Allure (7)
 8. Required (6)
 9. Projectile (7)
 10. Look at (6)
 11. Really (6)
 12. Stimulating (8)
 18. Left to choice (6)
 20. Drive forward (6)
 21. Wrench (6)
 22. Broadcast (7)
 23. Accent (6)
 24. Relies (7)

Down

1. Disrobe (7)
 2. Marine bird (7)
 3. Dread (6)
 5. Dusk (8)
 6. Dwell (6)
 7. Visitor (6)
 13. Solitary (8)
 14. Increase (7)
 15. Slim (7)
 16. Decorated (6)
 17. Elf (6)
 19. Communicate (6)

Sudoku

4	3				2	6		5
		1		7				2
6				5	4			
		9			6		1	8
		6		8		5		
8	5		9			7		
			8	6			5	
1	6			4				
		8	2				9	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	2	5	1	3	4	6	7
3	5	4	8	7	5	2	1
5	7	1	2	4	6	3	9
6	8	7	3	2	1	9	4
1	4	5	6	8	9	7	3
9	3	2	5	7	4	8	1
2	5	6	9	3	8	1	7
7	1	9	4	6	5	2	8
4	9	8	7	1	2	6	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Roof-gardens; 9 Awl; 10 Avalanche; 11 Ascot; 13 Twin-set; 14 Hangar; 16 Assist; 18 Trodden; 19 Royal; 20 Sure thing; 21 Hoe; 22 Merry widows. Down: 2 Oil; 3 Feast; 4 Awaits; 5 Diaries; 6 Necessity; 7 Parachutist; 8 Teetotaler; 12 Concourse; 15 Auditor; 17 On view; 19 Rigid; 21 Hew. QUICK - Across: 1 Predecessor; 9 Nip; 10 Timepiece; 11 Offer; 13 Imitate; 14 Cynics; 16 Egoist; 18 Ringlet; 19 Tight; 20 Eliminate; 21 Ago; 22 Alternately. Down: 2 Rip; 3 Deter; 4 Commit; 5 Sapling; 6 Operating; 7 Unconcerned; 8 Detestation; 12 Financial; 15 Collide; 17 Attain; 19 Treat; 21 All.



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Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
 Single room supplements apply.

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 or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Set in 12.5 acres of grounds is this Grade II listed home known as Clent House which is near Blakedown village

A country home with magnificent grounds

A Grade II-listed country property of some 7,600 sq ft and set in magnificent, extensive gardens of around 12.5 acres is for sale with a price tag of just under £1.5 million.

Clent House in Bromsgrove Road, Clent, is close to the villages of Blakedown and Belbroughton, and also with access to the centres of Hagley, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Stourbridge and Birmingham.

The house, originally built as stables in 1709, was converted to residential use around 1955 with further late 20th century alterations and additions.

Beamed

It has an entrance hall, drawing room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, rear hall, cloakroom, master bedroom, dressing room, en suite bathroom, three further en suite bedrooms, store/games room, flat with sitting room, dining kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, indoor swimming pool, garden room, triple garage and in-out drive.

On the ground floor the drawing room has timber panelling to the walls and a bespoke fireplace with heavy beamed ceiling, with a multi-aspect sitting room and more formal dining



Part of the extensive grounds include an enclosed pond and woodland area

room with carved Adam style fireplace.

A comprehensive range of lime oak style wall and floor units with two-oven Aga in the breakfast kitchen are complemented by timber panelling to one wall.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en suite bathroom and its own private balcony, with the master suite having a dressing room and bathroom, with two further en suite bedrooms.

To the rear of the house stands the indoor swimming pool and garden

room with numerous French and patio doors.

A long sweeping driveway leads through electronically operated gates through the spectacular gardens and grounds which include a large stocked pond and woodland areas, three large greenhouses, rose garden and orchard.

A large split level slabbed terrace to the rear overlooks a further shaped lawn and paddock beyond.

Call Andrew Grant on 01905 734735.

Exposed Elizabethan timbers

SITUATED in one of Wolverhampton's most sought-after locations and on the fringe of open countryside, this Grade II listed cottage is on the market priced at £295,000.

Dating back to around 1580, Walnut Tree Cottage in Lower Penn has a wealth of exposed Elizabethan timbers and is set within private gardens which have been professionally landscaped.

The property briefly comprises reception hall, sitting room with imposing inglenook fireplace, separate dining room/third bedroom, farmhouse style kitchen, study, downstairs bathroom with free standing bath and claw bath, heavily exposed timber walls and ceilings, leaded windows with oak casements, LPG central heating, two first floor double bedrooms - master en suite - and stand-alone large oak framed barn with first floor hobby room/office.

Call the agent Nick Tart on 01902 755585 for details.



Grade II listed cottage on the edge of Wolverhampton is on the market for £295,000

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Halesowen Office



CRADLEY HEATH, Peartree Lane£750 pcm
Lovely detached home on a large corner plot. Close to Cradley Heath and local train station, the house benefits from a large lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom, 4 bedrooms with en-suite to master, family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, private rear garden.



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 pcm
A nicely presented refurbished end terrace home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



STOURBRIDGE, Gooch Close£595 pcm
Well presented 3 bedroom refurbished semi-detached house in this quiet cul de sac on the Penfields estate. Featuring a large kitchen/diner, large lounge, fireplace, patio doors leading to a southerly aspect covered terrace area, guest cloakroom, family bathroom with shower, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom.



CRADLEY HEATH, Prince Street£575 pcm
A beautiful semi-detached house close to Cradley Heath. Featuring 3 good size bedrooms, master with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, modern kitchen, low maintenance garden, double glazing, gas central heating, downstairs WC, off road parking.



HALESOWEN, Hoosen Close £575 pcm
A delightful modern mid terrace house located within a desirable quiet cul de sac. Featuring a lovely refitted kitchen with appliances, gas central heating, large lounge with patio doors offering views across a mature garden, benefiting from a sunny aspect, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage.



HALESOWEN, Clent View Road£550 pcm
Excellent value for money. This exceptionally large home in a very popular location close to local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Close to Colley Lane Primary School, briefly featuring 3 double bedrooms, through lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens.



ROWLEY REGIS, Clent View £535 pcm
A fantastic opportunity to rent a brand new property on a select development. 'Clent View' features 2 bedrooms. Finished to an exceptional standard. These homes feature spacious lounges with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern kitchen, family bathroom with shower.



WORDSLEY, Cooknell Drive £525 pcm
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking.



STOURBRIDGE, Churchhill Drive£525 pcm
Lovely spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached home is available in this quiet cul-de-sac. Features include large living room, dining room and modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, downstairs bathroom and further shower room upstairs with 2 double and 1 single bedroom. Driveway parking.



HALESOWEN, Lodgefield Road£525 pcm
Available to rent is this lovely semi detached house on a popular road. This home features 2 good size bedrooms, gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, shower room, front & rear gardens, driveway parking, unfurnished. An opportunity not to be missed.



HALESOWEN, Stewarts Road£525 pcm
A 2 bed unfurnished semi detached home situated in a quiet location, and close to local bus routes and shops. Featuring a large dining lounge, fitted kitchen, guest w.c., 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, front and rear gardens.



NETHERTON, Quayside Walk £525 pcm
A fantastic 2nd floor apartment set in delightful gardens with views over the canal. The accommodation includes entrance hall, lounge with Juliet balcony, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms with wardrobes, en-suite shower room, further bathroom, double glazing, electric heating and parking.



UPPER GORNAL, Tudor Vale £475 pcm
Situating at the end of the cul-de-sac. This unfurnished end terrace house features gas central heating, newly decorated and carpeted living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space.



ROWLEY REGIS, Clent Hill Drive£475 pcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with small fridge, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane£475 pcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with small fridge, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



DUDLEY, Anchor Drive £475 pcm
Modern and comfortable living. A 2nd floor apartment within easy access to Dudley, Tipton and the M5. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, garage.



WORDSLEY, John Street £450 pcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambleside. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



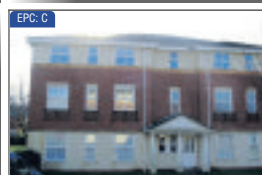
CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane£450 pcm
A modern top floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station close by. This apartment comprises of 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking.



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £450 pcm
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment, which is ideally located for Wednesbury and Dudley. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens.



LYE, High Street £450 pcm
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good sized bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£425 pcm
A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill with local bus stop outside and Old Hill train station close by. This apartment comprises of 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking.

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Walmley Close, Halesowen



EPC D

Offers Over £190,000

Modern detached house situated in a cul-de-sac on a popular residential estate. Comprises lounge, conservatory and three bedrooms. Halesowen.

Oak Barn Road, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £180,000

Extended detached house in a popular location. The property has undergone a refurbishment program.

West Road, Halesowen



EPC E

Offers Over £110,000

This traditional terraced house comprising lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, drive and rear garden.



£300,000

A traditional semi detached house comprising lounge, study, lounge/diner, conservatory and master bedroom with en-suite. Halesowen.

Olive Lane, Halesowen



EPC E

£95,000

Traditional end terraced property includes two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms, loft room and rear garden.

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis



Awaiting EPC

£90,000

This modern second floor apartment in a popular residential area. Comprising open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite and allocated parking.

Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis



EPC D

Offers Over £75,000

This modern mid terraced house comprising lounge, two bedrooms, parking space and rear garden. Halesowen.

Lea Green Avenue, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

£110,000

A two bedroom semi detached property, briefly comprising an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, veranda and family bathroom.

Pimlico Court, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £100,000

Terraced three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking.

Heath Green, Dudley



EPC C

£100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Old Park Road, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £90,000

Three bedroom traditional semi detached house briefly comprising kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Leasowe Road, Tipton



EPC D

£79,950

Three bedroom mid terraced property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory and bathroom.

Arley Court, Dudley



EPC D

£65,000

Two bedroom flat briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and allocated parking.

Geneva Road, Tipton



EPC D

£64,950

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Ivanhoe Street, Dudley



EPC D

£60,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance lobby, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Triumph's Tiger burning bright



Born to run – the Tiger 800

MOTORCYCLES are fast: for under £10,000 you can own a road-legal bike which will out accelerate any supercar costing ten times as much.

And if you watch TV reports from the Isle of Man, you will know that even the camera crew's helicopter can't keep up with the TT front runners over the mountain course.

But what does this mean for us ordinary mortals who, if we used such performance potential on the public roads, would very soon be banned or buried?

In the real world, rapid acceleration is only part of the bike's key to cutting journey times down to size. It's also about agility – being able to filter past lines of crawling traffic, or to be first away at the lights.

I was starkly reminded of this when I accompanied a colleague to Triumph's factory at Hinckley, Leicestershire, to pick up a test bike, the latest Tiger 800.

I drove back in a one litre hatchback, which it has to be said, gave limited scope for overtaking on a busy A-road. My colleague took the bike – and was home a full 40 minutes before me!

According to an internet routing service, the distance was 51 miles and the estimated time one hour five minutes, although that very clearly doesn't take account of Friday afternoon traffic on the A5.

By John Griffiths

But since both car and bike faced the same conditions and restrictions it does illustrate how much time you can save on two wheels, either when commuting or enjoying a trip to the seaside.

The Tiger is classed as an adventure or enduro type, designed for long journeys both on and off road, but its character makes it a consummate all-rounder.

Its three cylinder engine (a bigger capacity version of the 675 Street Triple's power unit) is torquey but tractable, with a slick and snatch-free six-speed gearbox, non-aggressive throttle and easy clutch.

The engine capacity was increased by lengthening the stroke, and while it's in a lower state of tune than the Street Triple it still

turns out a useful 94bhp with the torque spread over a wide rev range. An average of around 50mpg wouldn't be expecting too much. Just two fingers on the brake lever gives you convincing stopping power, too.

At 210kg the Tiger is light, and well-balanced so you can trickle along, feet up, with confidence when negotiating obstacles and traffic. As an adventure machine, ground clearance is high and therefore so is the seating position. Seat height is adjustable between 810 and 830mm, and you can



Stylish machine – Tiger 800 Crystal White

knock another 20mm off with an optional accessory saddle.

The riding position is upright for maximum comfort on a longer trip while also affording the best view ahead.

Behind the seat is a useful luggage rack, which doubles as a passenger grab rail, and naturally there is a full range of luggage on the options list.

Many of these attributes are essential to an enduro machine because you might well be riding on slippery surfaces such as mud

or wet grass. But they also work to make the bike easier, more comfortable to ride on the road, too, and especially if it's wet.

The same can be said of the long-travel suspension: Designed to cope with dirt tracks, it saves the rider from having his or her spine rattled on British B-roads, too.

At £7,499 for the standard Tiger (ABS – always worth it for me – is a £600 option) undercuts the German opposition which has dominated this sector of the market by some margin.

It's both cheaper and more powerful than BMW's F800 GS, for example.

Few adventure bikes ever venture seriously off road, but if that's your bag there's the Tiger XC version at £8,699 which comes with even longer travel suspension and larger (21 inch) front wheel. Or if you have more money to spend there's a Tiger derivative powered by the company's Speed Triple 1,050cc engine.

Wheel to wheel

Triumph Tiger 800

Engine: Three cylinder, 12 valve 800cc with 94bhp and 79Nm of torque. Six speed gearbox.
Economy: 78.3mpg at constant 55mph; Fuel tank capacity 19 litres.
Brakes: twin 308mm discs with two piston calipers (front) and 255mm disc with single piston caliper (rear).
Wheels and tyres: 100/90 ZR 19 (front) and 150/70 ZR 17 (rear).
Weight: 210kg. **Price:** £7,499.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

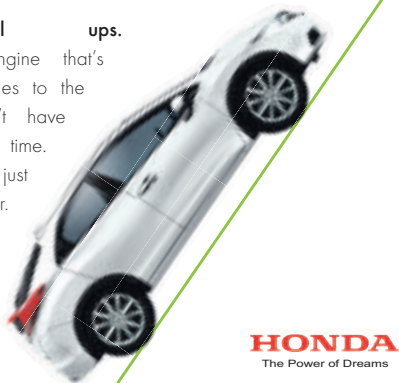
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Model shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Manual in optional Alabaster Silver at £20,075 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE registrations from 1 July to 30 September 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £229 per month based on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Manual in metallic/pearl paint at £20,075 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,259.71 (21%) deposit, Optional Final Payment of £7,571.11, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

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Model shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red at £11,695 On The Road. **Terms and conditions:** New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC registrations from 1 July to 30 September 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £99 per month based on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red at £11,695 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,301.93 deposit, Optional Final Payment of £4,829.07, with a total mileage of 18,500 and excess mileage charge 2.37p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.


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Motoring



The Mercedes-Benz W 196 R Silver Arrow which sold for £17.5 million over the phone at auction

Cherished racing Merc sells for a record figure

THIS slightly tatty old racing car has just sold at auction for a price you will struggle to believe.

An unnamed bidder, who may not have even seen the car in the metal, placed a final bid of £17.5 million over the phone. With the seller's fee on top of that, the final price came to a world record, and frankly ridiculous, £19,601,500.

The reason for this apparent madness? Well this car, a Mercedes-Benz W 196 R Silver Arrow, is one of only 10 remaining similar former grand prix cars from the company's golden era of 1954 and 1955.

Only 14 were ever built, and with four lost in the cruel chances of the passing decades, the 10 remaining cars – all outstanding examples of engineering and racing heritage that swept all their competition away nearly 60

years ago – are Mercedes' most prized assets. They own nine of them themselves, six are in Mercedes' own hands, while three are on permanent loans to museums around the globe. So that leaves just one in private hands: this one.

What's more, 'this one' is a grand prix-winning car driven by probably the greatest Formula 1 driver ever: Juan Miguel Fangio. This is the very car he clinched the 1954 World Championship in, making it effectively priceless.

When a car like this comes up for auction it might be a buyer's only chance to own it in his or her lifetime, and the only limit to how high the bidding will go is how badly each extremely wealthy bidder wants it.

Of course, you still might say it's just a tatty old race car, and from a certain perspective you'd be right. This W 196 R is almost completely original, with

peeling panels, old wooden steering wheel, tiny fly screen and mirrors. But that's what makes it so valuable. All these things, exactly as they are, bore witness to the genius of Fangio in a glorious bygone age of racing, where man and machine really were pushed to the limit and beyond. That kind of provenance can't be recreated.

This car, therefore, is a Holy Grail for anyone who subscribes to humankind's ideological quest to better itself. This car is about one great man doing things no one had ever done before.

So as the mystery buyer prepares to take delivery of the most expensive car ever sold at auction, he or she will no doubt be preparing a very special space for it. And despite the cost, as long as this kind of racing cars remains undamaged, it will never, ever lose value. Sounds like an excellent pension fund, if ever there was one.

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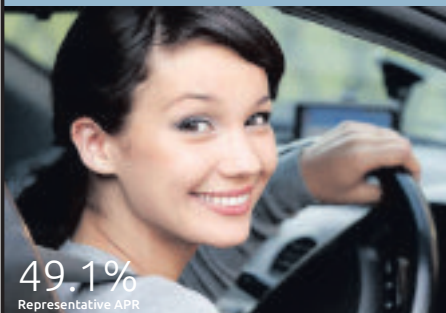
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Motoring

Upgrade for BMW's popular 5 Series

By Matt Kimberley

THIS might not be an all-new model, but there's no such thing as a minor refresh in the BMW 5 Series – it's the Munich-based firm's biggest seller globally, making it the most important car to come out of its factories.

The biggest news for this latest model is on the inside, with an unbelievable array of gadgets and active safety installations now available either as standard or at an extra cost. More of that later.

On the outside, things are more or less as they were, with a long, sloping bonnet that dips suddenly towards a low, trademark 'kidney grille'. Small tweaks here and there have neaten and sharpened what was until now a slightly tubby design, so its on-road presence is that little bit more imposing.

We Brits will have plenty of model variants to choose from, although there are some xDrive four-wheel drive models that wouldn't sell well enough here for BMW to warrant re-engineering them for right-hand drive.

Sales of xDrive versions are picking up, though, and we'll get more choice on that front when an all-new 5 Series arrives in two to three years.

The three trim levels are called SE, Modern and Luxury, with M Sport trim packages available to upgrade the higher lines. Not all grades will be available with every engine, though.

The key standard equipment on all models includes the excellent iDrive interface, a huge colour widescreen display on the dashboard, digital dials that change style according to the active drivetrain mode, leather upholstery and Euro VI compatible engines.

Even the diesels pass the test, having been fitted with BMW's BluePerformance NOx-reducing additive system.

Mighty

On the engine front there are six diesels and four petrols, ranging from a 518d with 14bhp and 119g/km to a mighty petrol V8 with more than 440bhp. At the car's exclusive launch we drove the 535i and 530d options, with the diesel likely to be the more popular of the two.

It's a familiar unit to many current owners and excels at turning liquid diesel into formidably rapid forward motion, even in a car so relatively large.

Sitting in the Luxury-trimmed test car, with its plush and supportive leather seats adjusted to fit, the driving position is absolutely perfect. A flick of the gear lever engages Drive at the other end of the eight-speed automatic gearbox, while the electronic handbrake releases automatically. It's a little slow to re-engage again when the time comes to park, but for setting off it's ideal.

The gearbox is, under normal use, a perfect match for the car. Changes are smooth, there's no interruption to the power delivery and it will even disengage from the engine in an off-throttle efficiency-boosting process called decoupling.

Its only failing is that under hard acceleration it changes up too late, allowing the diesel's power delivery to stall in every gear as the torque curve falls away. For brisk acceleration it's better to shift manually at around 3,500rpm using the paddles mounted behind the steering wheel.

This 5 Series cruises quietly, with immense stability even above 100mph on the German autobahn. It munches the miles deceptively easily and high-mileage drivers will love it. The variable-rate steering adjusts to make holding a straight course in your lane child's play.

Speaking of the steering, it's plain to see why the 5 Series is considered the driver's choice in the segment. It's no lightweight but it careers along winding, open roads in a way it has no right to. Large, wide tyres and confidence-inspiring suspension help with outright grip.

There's simply far too much new technology to list here, but believe me it's worth getting hold of the brochure.

As any dealer will be happy to tell you, the 5 Series is more customisable than ever, from the looks to the leather and from the suspension to the stereo. The basics are excellent enough though, and whatever configuration it's built into, yet again, it looks hard to beat.



The interior of the BMW 5 Series has seen a number of improvements



The new 5 series benefits from a sharper look than the outgoing model



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2 Leisure Time

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2 berth, beach comber 350/2, full awning, like new, cassette toilet, shower, h/c, power touch M3 Mover, Aqua roll, Wastemaster, pair of malencos. New, £2,500. 01952 462251.

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3 Home & Services

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01902 846788, 07961 187683.

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4 Pets & Animals

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guns & dogs

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pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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KITTENS for sale, beautiful male/female tabby kittens, 8 weeks old, to good homes only, £25 each. 07453 489002.

KITTENS x 2 girls, 9 weeks old, 1 fluffy black/white, tan, 1 tortoiseshell, litter trained, wormed, £60 pair or £40 each. 07765 103744.

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Classified Ads

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vets

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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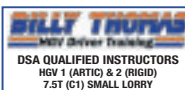


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RENAULT CLIO, 2004, 1.2, 3 door, metallic blue, fsh, long MoT, sunroof, tax, alloys, 74K miles, £1,750 ono. 07973 324713.

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2

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07732 221854.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi, 2010, exclusive, black, MoT, 90,000 miles, FSH, excellent condition, £5,995. 07526 840407.

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925
Re Pamela Rose Clarke Deceased

Notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Pamela Rose Clarke late of Allways, 16 Newfield Crescent, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3SS who died on the 31st March 2013 and whose will was proved at the Bristol Probate Registry on the 5th June 2013 by Rosemary Anne Cairns and Phillip Gordon Clarke the Executors named in the said Will is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, the Solicitors for the said Executors on or before the 4th October 2013 after which date the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated this 22nd day of July 2013
Solicitors for the said Executors
Thomas Horton LLP,
Strand House, 70 The Strand, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 8DQ

OLIVE ELIZA CHURCHILL FOLEY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Ash Lodge Nursing Home Londonderry Lane Snettisham West Midlands formerly of 22 John Street Rowley Regis West Midlands B65 0EP, who died on 22/04/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 11/10/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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personal

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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Bowler merits £1,200 cashpot

A YOUNG bowler from a West Bromwich club has picked up a £1,200 purse for winning a national final.

Greg Smith, aged 20, from West Bromwich FSC Bowling Club became one of the youngest ever winners of the British Crown Green Individual Merit when the finals were played at Broomfield Bowling Club at the weekend.

He bowled the immaculate Broomfield greens superbly all day to become British Champion and pick up the prize money.

In front of a crowd of around 1,500 he started the day with a 21-10 win over Simon Tyler from Wales.

In the second round he despatched Wayne Phillips from Shropshire 21-6. Tom Vickers from Cheshire was his next scalp winning the third round 21-15.

Smith's bowling got better and better as the competition went on and he took out Darren Williams from Wales 21-9 in the quarter-final and Dave McDermott from Merseyside 21-8 in the semi.

In the final he was up against John Reilly from Cumbria. It looked like a close affair with the scores at 11-11 but Greg stepped up another gear to win 21-11 and take the title.

Luna looks to impress with Villa

VILLA ace Antonio Luna says he is ready to star in the Premier League and eclipse his summer form.

The left-back reckons his style will suit the top flight as he looks to become one of the claret and blues' stellar men.

The £2m summer signing from Sevilla has impressed during pre-season and Luna said he can thrive in the Premier League.

"I feel I have the characteristics to play here," he said.

"I think I have good athletic abilities - I am quick as a player and that is important in a division like the Premier League. But I believe it's good for me.

"Training has helped massively too, it is very intense and great fun. All the ball work is intense but it's really enjoyable."

He will be competing with Joe Bennett.

Marvellous Morris in magnificent form



Kent's Jack Kingston falls after tangling with Nathan Greaves during the match. Picture: John Hipkiss Photography

Dudley 53 Kent 39
DUDLEY preserved their perfect National League record in one of the most entertaining matches of the season at Monmore, writes **Rich Jones**.

Heathens skipper Ashley Morris was in stunning form to inspire his side to a hard-fought win despite the absence of key reserve Max Clegg, who hopes to return in a fortnight from injury.

Morris reeled off four consecutive wins in his final four outings including a vital 5-1 with Lewis Blackbird following some textbook team-riding in heat 13 and a sensational sloop underneath Kent No.1 Steve Boxall to win

Speedway

the final race of the night. Morris was delighted with his night's work.

He said: "I'm really happy with that. I was disappointed with my first ride after completely missing the gate, but I definitely made up for it."

"I had plenty of speed and felt good. Me and Lewis had a really good 5-1 in heat 13 and then I managed to get the cutback to pass Boxall in heat 15 which was great. We came on strong towards the end and eventually got the result we wanted."

A slow start saw the sides level after

three races - and when Dudley finally looked set for a breakthrough reserve Nathan Greaves shed a chain while on a 5-1 with Lewis Blackbird.

But Paul Starke brilliantly held off Boxall to lead a Heathens 4-2 next time out as the side gradually built a lead.

Dudley were 11 up with four heats left, but a double-point tactical ride win for Boxall set the nerves jangling. However, a strong home surge banked all three National League points.

Dudley: Ashley Morris 14, Lewis Blackbird 11+1, Paul Starke 10+1, Nathan Greaves 8, Gareth Isherwood 5+2, Dan Greenwood 4+1, Lee Geary 1+1.
Kent: Steve Boxall 14, Benji Compton 9, Ben Morley 7, Jack Kingston 6, David Mason 2+2, Connor Coles 1, Adam Kirby 0.

Silver lining for Faye as riders just pipped

A HALESOWEN teenaged showjumper has won a silver medal as part of the Great Britain team in the European Championships. Faye Adams, aged 15, rode her mother Julie's 14-year-old chestnut mare Some Like It Hot.

Faye competed as part of the British Pony Team riding under the Team Fairfax banner at the Pony European Jumping Championships in Arezzo Italy. Her fellow riders were 16-year-old Amy Inglis, from Haywards Heath, West Sussex on her mother's 14-year-old chestnut mare Lea du Genier, Emily Ward, 14, from Neston, Cheshire on her father's eight-year-old chestnut gelding King Mac and Millie Allen, 15, from Stockton-on-Tees on her father's 10-year-old bay mare Song Girl.

With all four riders having put in solid performances, Great Britain were in pole position after the first round, heading the leaderboard on a zero penalty score.

Jumping in reverse order, Great Britain were the last of the 10 nations to come forward with the competition taking the same format as the Nations Cup, where only the three best scores count, allowing one of the team members' rounds to be a drop score.

Putting in a great clear round earlier, Faye and Some Like It Hot just missed out on another and came through the finish with four penalties.

Fences

With rider after rider collecting penalties after them, each of the teams in contention found themselves accruing points.

Germany, France and Ireland were sitting in joint second on four penalties and France and Ireland on joint fifth on eight penalties.

With just two fences dividing the top six places three nations battled it out for Gold; Germany, Great Britain and France.

As Germany's final rider jumped clear it meant they carried just their four penalties. France's fourth team member, who had jumped clear in the morning was eliminated making it a two way fight between GB and Germany. An unfortunate foot in the water for Millie Allen meant four penalties, leaving Great Britain with the silver, behind Germany but ahead of Ireland.

GB Pony Chef d'Equipe, Katrina Moore said "It shouldn't detract from the tremendous achievement we've had here."

Show jumping

Comeback for boxing binman

WEST Bromwich's Young Mutley will come out of retirement next month for a comeback fight in Birmingham after 19 months out of the ring.

The former British welterweight champion has been added to Marcus Anderson's bill at the Institute in Digbeth on September 13.

The 37-year-old last threw leather in the light welterweight Prizefighter of February 2012, losing on points to Tyrone Nurse in the semi-finals.

His last win came on the same night against Telford's Mark Lloyd and the boxing binman will now look to recapture his former glories in the twilight of his career.

Topping the bill is the rescheduled bout for the British Masters light welter title between Aston's Chris Truman and Liverpool's Stephen Jennings over 10 rounds.

Hometown super feather Ainsley Seiwright also competes on the card along with unbeaten super middle Andrew Robinson, the 28-year-old from Redditch.

Welshpool's Warren Sinden, Worcester's Michael Mooney and fellow Midlandsers Mike O'Hagan, Samson Sykes and Mike Boyles complete the night's line-up.



Silver medal winning team from left, Amy Inglis, Millie Allen, Faye Adams and Emily Ward

Town hall challenge awaiting Welborn

PRO boxing returns to the West Midlands on September 7 at Walsall Town Hall with British title challengers Jason Welborn and Max Maxwell in the main event.

Rowley Regis' Welborn, who lost a British title shot to Frankie Gavin in January, will mark his permanent step-up to light middleweight with a test against Maxwell.

Jamaican-born Brummie Maxwell was defeated in a revenge mission by Brian Rose for the 11st British belt last year and has also challenged for the English title that year. The match could have been made for a Masters belt over 10 rounds and it's an all-West Midlands battle, pitting the naturally bigger man against the stone fists of Welborn.

On the under-card, Stafford's Rob Hunt boxes back at the venue where he made his pro debut in May 2006 with a one-round knockout of Ian Clyde. The experienced welterweight will be 20 fights further on when he climbs out.

West Bromwich's Tom Stokes will be looking to kick on to his second professional win after making his debut at the same venue in May.

Tipton's Anthony Tildesley makes his debut at welter, while Stoke's Kevin Hanks takes on ever-green Brummie Sid Razak at lightweight.

Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 ringside, are available from the town hall box office on 0845 111 2900.

Yeltz squad is given a twin boost

HALESOWEN Town has boosted their squad with the signings of Kyle Brady and Kristian Green.

Striker Brady and full-back Green both played in the 1-0 friendly win at Bromsgrove Sporting.

Brady has been on trial at the Grove after scoring 25 goals in 15 games for AFC Wulfrunians last season. He scored a hat-trick for the Yeltz in friendly win against his former club.

His nomadic career has also taken in spells at Rushall and Stourbridge. Green has arrived from Gornal Athletic, after playing a key role in the Peacocks' run to last year's FA Vase quarter-final.



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SPORT

Perfect day
Heathens hold on
to clean sweep
Page 39



Hi yo silver!
Young riders grab
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Page 39



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Victory ensured with fast scoring

Wolverhampton 199-9
WBD 1st XI 201-4
WBD won by 6 wickets
BRINDER Phagura's 3-58 spearheaded a fine bowling performance that kept Wolves to 199-9.

Kadeer Ali's 48 and Basit Zaman's 40 gave WBD such a fast start they were able to pass Wolves' score with 18 overs remaining and so secure the win shortly before the rain arrived.
Dorridge 126
WBD 1st XI 108
A disappointing result for WBD in the semi-final of the B-ham League 20/20.

WBD began well by limiting Dorridge to 126 with Rawlston Tappin starring in the field with four catches and a run out.

Dorridge then produced an outstanding bowling and fielding performance, bowling WBD out for 108. Dorridge won the final.

WBD 2nd XI 116
Bridgnorth 16
Match abandoned
Half centuries for Shaun Roberts and Amit John enabled WBD to pass 200. Bridgnorth had only just begun their reply when rain arrived and ended the game.

Rugeley 227
WBD 3rd XI 107-6
Match Drawn
Awais Afzaal took 4-39 in Rugeley's innings. WBD were struggling in their reply when rain arrived and probable defeat was averted.

WBD 4th XI 166-7
Pelsall 70-2
Match drawn
Another game ended prematurely by the weather but not before Shoaib Farooque top scored for WBD with 47.

On Saturday WBD look to continue their recent good league form when they play Wombourne at Sandwell Park.

Ricoh offer to Sky Blues
COVENTRY have been offered the chance to play at the Ricoh Arena from next year on a 10-year lease.

The Sky Blues, who are in administration, have agreed a groundshare with League Two's Northampton after a rent row with stadium owners Arena Coventry Limited (ACL). They had been in talks with Walsall over sharing their Banks's Stadium.

At a creditors' meeting ACL offered the League One club a 10-year deal to stay. The club, who intend to build a new stadium in the city, have yet to respond.

Yeltz ladies continue their run of victories



Sophie Richards, right, on the ball

THE Yeltz ladies continued their winning ways with a good solid performance against Sandwell ladies.

Halesowen started with five players never playing together before and at the beginning it looked like the whole team hadn't played together.

However, as time went on Halesowen were the first to relax and play better football. Captain Dani Reade and Jo Butler had to play centre backs as no defenders were available.

Chloe Harris and Lauren Affron made some good runs forward but some quality saves by the Sandwell keeper made it frustrating for the visitors. Sarah Hamill the midfield

Sandwell 0 Halesowen 5

general was controlling the midfield and the dead lock was broken 20 minutes in when Rachel Letford found Haley Chatters free on the far side of the post leaving a simple tap in for her.

Within two minutes Halesowen were two up when new signing Gemma Moss passed the ball to the awaiting Angie Morley who then volleyed it and it cannoned off the crossbar into the empty net.

Halesowen were starting to find a bit of form as Sophie Richards collected the ball

from the half way line and with an inspirational run went past several players and let fly a shot that flew into the roof of the net.

The second half was more of the same with good early pressure. Another new signing striker Gemma Moss scored the fourth with a low drive passed the unlucky keeper. Chatters made it five with some good work by Richards on the right wing.

Halesowen didn't have it all their own way Sandwell have chances to score especially with a one-on-one with the keeper but Hannah Tromans, but she came off her line quick to make a fantastic save and keep the clean sheet.

Tipton side show their four-te on the pitch

Wellington 1 Tipton 4

A DOUBLE from midfield dynamo Mike Perks helped Tipton to a convincing and accomplished 4-1 win at West Midlands Regional Premier League outfit Wellington Amateurs.

With Tipton boss Ian Rowe shuffling the pack due to holidays and work commitments, it provided an opportunity for players to stock up on match time with the season start just seven days away.

Tipton opened brightly when Perks volleyed home from 25 yards.

Then Chris Rabone fed Ricky Nicholls who slotted home to double the lead.

With the half drawing to a close, Tipton made it three when Chris Rabone put his own volley in from 10 yards.

Ian Rowe rang the changes at half time and continued to rotate the squad during the second half, meaning the balance of the play shifted.

Wellington grabbed one back on the hour when impressive Joel Zahd took advantage of some dithering at the back to fire past James Pemberton.

But with less than a minute left Rob Perks then set up Mike Perks to score.

Wolves are tops with the bookies

KENNY JACKETT has tipped his Wolves young guns for glory as they were named as the League One bookies' favourites.

Online bookmakers bet 365.com have made Wolves 7-2 favourites for the top spot. Head coach Jackett said "I've been very impressed with our young players."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, August 1, 2013.

WOLVES TASTE LOSS BUT ARE ON THE UP

WOLVES might have lost for the first time under Kenny Jackett - but they are on the up.

That they tasted defeat for the first time in six pre-season friendlies was more down to poor defensive errors ruthlessly punished by a team - who had beaten Bolton and Huddersfield in the previous five days - than being outplayed by a side that finished seventh in La Liga last season.

Wolves led twice through Richard Stearman's fourth-minute header and Leigh Griffiths' fourth goal of pre-season five minutes after the break.

But ball watching for Salva's equaliser on 15 minutes and mistakes by David Davis and Sam Ricketts allowed Cedrick and Matilla in the 55th and 71st minutes respectively to squeeze the Spaniards home.

It's concerning that Wolves haven't kept a clean sheet in pre-season and have leaked seven goals.

But the feeling is they will improve the more they play together and few of the 7,741 crowd will be too bothered about the result.

"It was a good game and a good workout," said new boss Kenny Jackett.

"But I couldn't help being slightly disappointed because in the second half there was a win for us and we didn't take the opportunity."

Jackett was disappointed with Wolves' defending for the goals conceded.

"There were bad passes for their second and third goals," he admitted. But it's right to pass the ball constructively from the back. So we won't stop doing that but just maybe our selection at times wasn't quite what it should be."

With five days to go to the big kick-off at Preston, Jackett is satisfied with how things are shaping up.

Wolves 2 Betis 3

"Overall I'm quite pleased with the pre-season period including Saturday," he said.

Bjorn Sigurdarson should have put Wolves ahead after 44 seconds but fired against keeper Sara's legs.

However, they weren't to be denied on four minutes when Stearman nodded home after Danny Bath's assist from a Griffiths corner.

Betis levelled when Salva thundered home from the edge of the area after a square pass from Cedrick.

Griffiths is always on the sniff for goals and he escaped the Betis defence to latch on to Sigurdarson's flick and bury a left-foot shot to put Wolves ahead again before floating a free-kick narrowly over.

But Betis were level when Davis's poor pass was seized upon by the nippy Cedrick and the winger prodded past Ikeme.

If the visitors thought the path was clear to march to victory, they were mistaken however, as David dragged a shot wide and Matt Doherty was inches away.

Wolves were made to pay for their wastefulness when Ricketts's careless punt allowed Matilla to grab the winner.



Leigh Griffiths makes it 2-1 at Molineux to continue his goal-scoring form in pre-season



Bakary Sako gets some time on the pitch



Kenny Jackett with assistant Joe Gallen



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MON - SAT - 9:30 - 5:30 | SUN - 10 - 4

UNIT 2 SHENSTONE TRADING ESTATE HALESOWEN B63 3XB

